CNMI seeks to strengthen ties with Delta Air Lines. PAGE 3
Yoshizawa off to Hyatt competition in Tokyo. PAGE 9

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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75¢

CHC stops accepting TakeCare

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and all facilities within the corporation has stopped accepting TakeCare Insurance effective yesterday.

The suspension came about after TakeCare Insurance declared that CHCC is not a participating provider in TakeCare's provider network.

CHCC CEO Esther Muña characterized this a "sudden claim by TakeCare" and described it as "a weak attempt" to evade payment of arrears to

See CHC on Page 4

SAILING OKEANOS SUSTAINABLE SEA TRANSPORT
The Okeanos Marianas sets sail for Saipan from Auckland, New Zealand, on Sept. 20 2017, after seven weeks of construction and sea trials. Aboard the canoe is Saipan navigators Andrea Carr, John Sablan, and Devin Noisom.

See story on Page 2

3 DAYS BEFORE END OF FISCAL YEAR

FY2018 budget is now law

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A government shutdown was averted when Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed the fiscal year 2018 budget into law yesterday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, at the same time shooting down several cuts to the Marianas Visitors Authority budget.

» Majority of MVA budget is restored

Torres exercised his power to veto seven line items in the budget and

See BUDGET on Page 4

Envoy: Trump tweet 'declared war' vs N. Korea

By EDITH M. LEDERER,
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ho

UNITED NATIONS (AP)— North Korea's top diplomat said Monday that a weekend tweet by U.S. President Donald Trump was a "declaration of war" and North Korea has the right to retaliate by shooting down U.S. bombers, even in international airspace.

See ENVOY on Page 4

Price increases seen with wage hike

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

Businesses and minimum wage workers in the CNMI both believe that an impending 50-cent increase in the islands' minimum wage would ultimately lead to higher prices of supplies, commodities, and services.

Despite this, many small businesses, which would bear the brunt of the increase, intend to comply with the law and increase the wages of their minimum wage earners.

At least that's what Natural Nail Spa owner and manager Merle Hudkins said. She concedes that it will be an added burden but she intends to comply with the law.

Hudkins

Villaraza-Rueda

"We take care of our employees. They are my priority. We just hope the government will also take care of the small businesses with all these fees and other expenses. Otherwise, in the long run, small businesses will be hurting," she said.

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INSIDE

LOCAL
U.S. Navy Adm. Scott Swift retires as commander of the Pacific Fleet.

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WORLD
U.S.-backed forces in eastern Syria say Russia bombed their positions.

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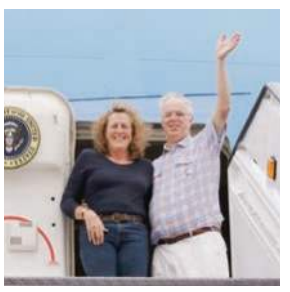

LIFE & STYLE
People now have a chance to recreate a shot of them emerging from Air Force One.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Canoe now voyaging from NZ to Saipan

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Saipan will soon welcome back three traditional navigators and its first Polynesian-inspired canoe that is being eyed for transportation and cargo to the Northern Islands.

The company, called Okeanos Sustainable Sea Transport, which is based in Auckland, New Zealand, has completed building its newest *vaka motu* (Polynesian canoe), called the *Okeanos Marianas*, that will be used on Saipan.

According to Emma Perez, managing director of Okeanos Sustainable Sea Transport Ltd., the *vaka motu* will be used in the Marianas for sustainable transportation of individuals and cargo to the Northern Islands.

"It will provide regular transportation to the Northern Islands, cargo trips to Tinian, trips to Rota," said Perez.

Andrea Carr, John Sablan, and Devin Noisom of Saipan made their way to Auckland on July 31, 2017, and assisted in building the *Okeanos Marianas* in June.

After seven weeks of construction and sea trials, Carr, Sablan, and Noisom set sail for the Marianas on Sept. 20, 2017, and will be arriving on Saipan in October.

Master navigator Peia Patai is accompanying them in their voyage back to Saipan.

Okeanos Marianas is a Polynesian-inspired canoe that was built from state-of-the-art material, modernizing the traditional canoe. It is over 50 feet in length and cost over $500,000 to build.

"She's a 50-foot, double-hulled Polynesian canoe. It is based from an original design but built out of completely modern material. She's a state-of-the-art canoe," said Perez.

According to her, the vessel is scheduled to arrive on Saipan between Oct. 22 and 27, depending on the weather condition.

The Saipan-based 500 Sails organization and the Okeanos Sustainable Sea Transport Ltd. intend to welcome the voyagers and the *vaka motu*.

"We plan to have a huge welcoming because in this particular voyage, Peia will be coming back full circle, with the gift that Mau Piailug gave him of traditional navigation," said Perez.

As of yesterday evening, the *Okeanos Marianas* was located at S 26 35.4 E170 42.9 CO 358, with a speed of 4 knots, according to the Okeanos Sustainable Sea Transport Ltd.'s Facebook page.

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Jesus Sablan is CEC's chair pro tem

Commonwealth Election Commission commissioner Jesus I. Sablan discusses an issue with CEC executive director Julita Villagomez after he was voted as chair pro tem during yesterday's CEC commissioners' meeting at the CEC conference room in Susupe.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission board selected yesterday commissioners Jesus I. Sablan and Donald Hofschneider as chairman pro tem and vice chairman pro temp, respectively.

Commissioner Esther Yatar nominated Sablan as chair pro tem, while commissioner Lailanie Manglona nominated Hofschneider as vice chair pro tem in a meeting at the CEC's conference room in Susupe. No one objected to the nomination.

Sablan, who represents Saipan and the Northern Islands, called for the meeting because CEC has no chairperson following the expiration of the term of former chair Frances M. Sablan last Aug. 8.

Commissioner Trinidad Rabauliman's term also expired that same day. Both Frances Sablan and Rabauliman represent Saipan and the Northern Islands.

This left CEC with four vacant commissioner positions, all representing Saipan and the Northern Islands.

Jesus Sablan said the selection of chair pro tem and vice chair pro tem is important so somebody can lead CEC's functions.

When Gov. Ralph DLG Torres makes the appointment for the vacant positions, the commissioners will meet again to select who among thems should serve as chair.

Jesus Sablan, who said he is willing to serve as chairperson, disclosed that his third term will expire in October 2018, a month before the general elections. He, however, wants to serve another term if his health allows it.

Jesus Sablan was first appointed in 2007.

Each commissioner has a four-year term and requires Senate confirmation.

He said Torres has stated that he is willing to re-appoint Frances Sablan and Rabauliman as commissioners.

Jesus Sablan said Frances Sablan is willing to serve again, but Rabauliman might be moving off-island.

At present, CEC has five commissioners: Jesus Sablan, Hofschneider and Joseph E. Santos for Tinian and Aguiguan, and Manglona and Yatar for Rota.

NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING PROGRAM
Babies learn from the time they are born. One of the ways they learn is through hearing. When a baby is born with hearing loss, many sounds and voices are not heard, and the child's speech and language development can be delayed. CHCC implemented newborn hearing as a standard of care and all babies get their hearing screened shortly after birth.
Ask if your baby passed the test. If you have concerns or your baby needs follow up call 236-8709.
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Printing funded by the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Grant under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Service Administration.

CNMI seeks to strengthen ties with Delta Air Lines

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is scheduled to meet with the president of Delta Air Lines next month to strengthen the relationship between the CNMI and the carrier.

"I'll be meeting with the president of Delta Air Lines some time next month to establish and assure Delta that we have a very special relationship with them," he said.

Delta Air Lines announced last Sept. 18 that it is pulling out its Guam-Narita service effective January 2018.

"We are in constant communication with the president [of Delta Air Lines] and we acknowledge and appreciate all the services that Delta has done here in the CNMI. For our part, we will continue to provide additional resources and support to Delta Air to prevent them from pulling out of the CNMI," said Torres.

In its official statement, Hiroko Okada of the Delta Air Lines corporate communications department had said the demand for the Narita-Guam flights have not been strong enough to sustain the route.

Delta Air Lines' flights from Narita to Saipan and Palau remain unchanged.

According to TASI Tours president Mesato Tezako, Saipan is not affected by the pullout in Guam because Delta Air Lines' service on Saipan has less competition, making the Narita-Saipan route a steady source of revenue."

The governor knows how critical Delta Air Line's role is in the CNMI is and that every flight that comes from Japan is, he said, given value and appreciation.

"It has always been a business partnership and the priority is to strengthen the relationship that we have. The CNMI will work with Delta Air to see possibilities for better opportunities in the CNMI. They are the only carrier that service the Japanese market from Narita to Saipan and one of the airlines that connect Saipan to the U.S. by going through Narita. We know we can always count on Delta," he said.

Currently, Delta Air Lines flies once a day from Narita to Saipan and lands at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport between 2:44am and 3pm. It is the only airline that brings Japanese tourists to the island.

That means the CNMI is open to other flights from Japan.

"It is always good news for the CNMI government to hear of new airlines coming in but, at the same time, I will not jeopardize Delta's presence here for other airlines because Delta has been serving the CNMI for 30-40 years," he said.

"We would like other airlines to fly in, perhaps from another city like Nagoya, Osaka, Kyoto, and Hokkaido. We encourage new airlines to come to the CNMI and to fly outside of Delta's realm of tourism because there are lot of other markets out there. The market is not limited to Tokyo and Narita only," he added.

Water outages on Friday, Saturday

There will be a scheduled water service interruption this Friday, Sept. 29, 2017, from 8am to 5pm in the Upper Navy Hill, China Town, and Upper Miha Housing areas due to scheduled repairs on a 12-inch water mainline break.

Water operations personnel of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. are scheduled to make the necessary repairs on Friday, Sept. 29, 2017, from 8am to 5pm. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services the following day as per water schedule hours, from 6am to 2pm.

The next day, Saturday, Sept. 30, 2017, there will be a scheduled water service interruption from 2am to 12pm in the San Antonio, Chalan Kanoa, Susupe, and San Jose areas. CUC Water Operations staff will be conducting leak detections and numerous tests on the water pressure around these areas to determine necessary changes to provide a more effective and efficient operation. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services soon after.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center at 664-4282 or monitor its Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(CUC)***

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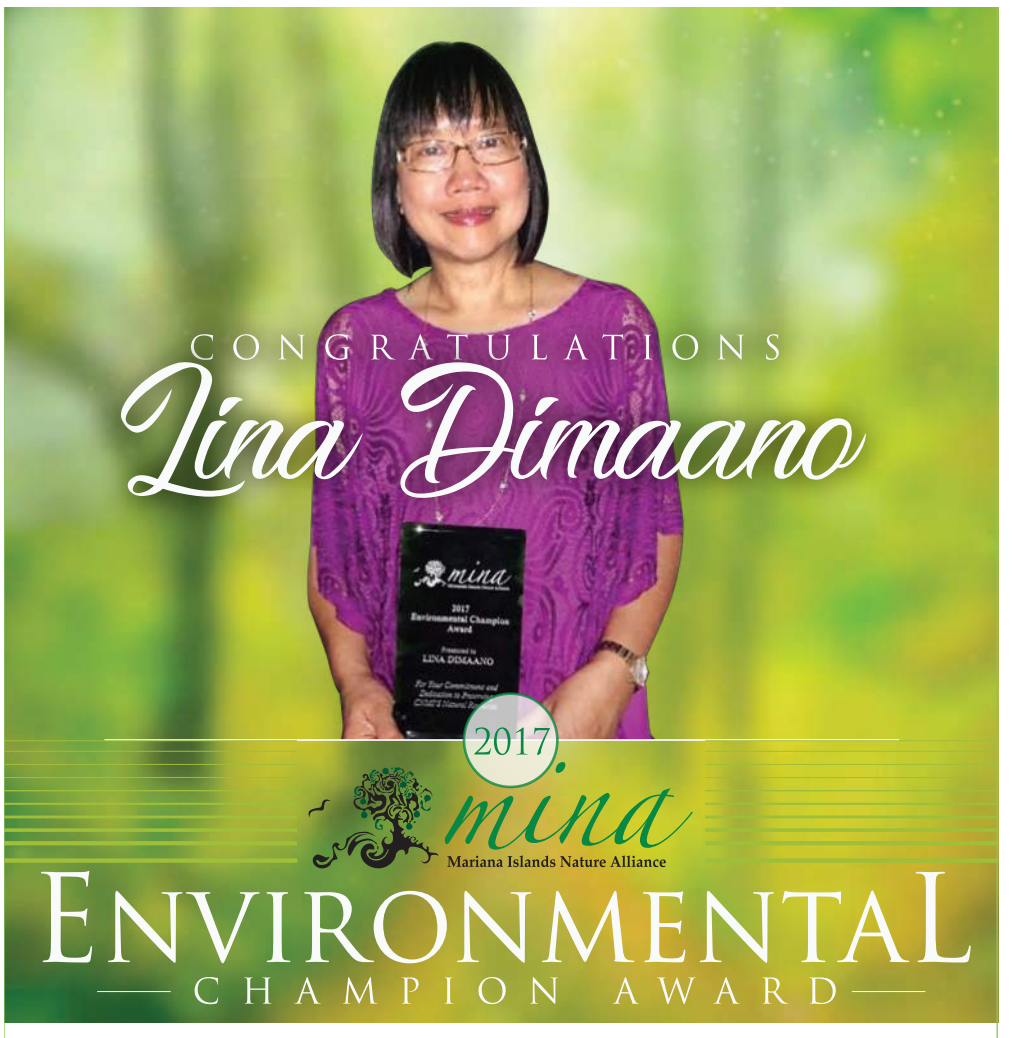

We commend you for taking the lead in implementing conservation efforts for our community.
From the management and staff of
Tan Holdings
www.tanholdings.com
Tan Siu Lin Foundation

ENVOY

From Page 1

It was the latest escalation in a week of undiplomatic exchanges between North Korea and the U.S. during the U.N. General Assembly's annual ministerial meeting.

Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho told reporters that the United Nations and the international community have said in recent days that they didn't want "the war of words" to turn into "real action."

But he said that by tweeting that North Korea's leadership led by Kim Jong Un "won't be around much longer," Trump "declared the war on our country."

Under the U.N. Charter, Ri said, North Korea has the right to self-defense and "every right" to take countermeasures, "including the right to shoot down the United States strategic bombers even when they're not yet inside the airspace border of our country."

Hours later, the White House pushed back on Ri's claim, saying: "We have not declared war on North Korea." The Trump administration, referring to the tweet, stressed that the U.S. is not seeking to overthrow North Korea's government.

U.S. Cabinet officials, particularly Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, have insisted that the U.S.-led campaign of diplomatic and economic pressure on North Korea is focused on eliminating the pariah state's nuclear weapons program, not its totalitarian government.

But the more Trump muddies the picture, the tougher it may become to maintain cooperation with China and Russia, which seek a diplomatic solution to the nuclear crisis and not a new U.S. ally suddenly popping up on their borders. It also risks snuffing out hopes of persuading Kim's government to enter negotiations when its survival isn't assured.

BUDGET

From Page 1

one funding allocation, most of which were Senate amendments to the $145.2-million budget.

The fiscal year 2018 budget is so far the largest budget of the CNMI government. It was enacted three days before the end of fiscal year 2017.

Torres' biggest line-item veto was the procurement of batwing mower tractors for both Tinian and Rota. That provision allocated $500,000 from MVA's budget to the procurement.

He conceded that providing Rota and Tinian with the mowers is a priority but believes that the money could be sourced elsewhere.

"Through further discussion, it seemed…that the $250,000 [each for Rota and Tinian] would be better used to promote the islands and then we could still get the mower through other resources," Torres said.

Previous Senate amendments that passed the bicameral conference committee included requiring the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to hire additional healthcare personnel for both Rota and Tinian. Specifically, the provision requires CHCC to hire at least one physician, one mid-level practitioner, and one dental assistant for the Tinian Health Center in the absence of at least two physicians already employed, plus the hiring of at least one physician, one physician assistant nurse practitioner, and one dental assistant for the Rota Health Center in the absence of at least two physicians already employed.

Torres' disapproved this provision, saying CHCC should have the "flexibility to address their staffing needs critical to all hospitals."

He stressed that disapproving this section does not imply that healthcare on both islands are less important.

A provision in the budget proposes to bar reducing the funds appropriated to the CNMI Judiciary and the Legislature without prior legislative approval. Torres said this provision violates the separation of powers doctrine.

A section allocates $75,000 for a leaching field, septic tank, and water reservoir for the Rota Medical Referral facility on Saipan. This was disapproved because Torres believes the owner of the facility must first "obtain free and clear title on the property before any improvements can be funded by the government."

Citing transparency, Torres also disapproved an allocation of $100,000 to the Lady Diann Torres Foundation. Although he supports programs and activities that promote the indigenous languages through literacy and arts, Torres urged the foundation to "provide [the] administration, the Legislature, and the public with the outcome of these programs for future consideration."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

PRICE

From Page 1

The minimum wage in the CNMI will go up from $6.55 an hour to $7.05 an hour effective Sept. 30, 2017.

Hudkins, who opened her business over two years ago, has five employees—a combination of U.S. citizens and foreign workers.

"We complied with the minimum wage increase last year without increasing the cost of our services. We got by because business was good and we were busy. It was break even. Now, as I study the numbers, I may have to increase my prices but it will not be much. I try to make it affordable," she said.

Hudkins was able to keep the price of the nail spa's services down last year by looking for more affordable supplies.

"I was also smart about it. I looked for other vendors locally, off-island or online ordering that would be cheaper. I really tried my best to make sure I got a fair price that didn't make me want to increase my prices," she said.

According to Hudkins, with the wage increase this year, she would have to increase the spa's price a little.

"Everything is adding up. When wages increase, there is an increase in the cost of supplies and shipping as well. The cosmetics tax of $17.25 is expensive here on island. Also, the fees of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services have gone up. People and other businesses have raised their prices to pass on the expense," she said.

Despite the challenges, Hudkins remains optimistic.

"I always look at the long-term effects of decisions today. I don't want to put the burden on my customers. There may be a slight increase but we will continue to give them quality service, at the same time making sure everybody is taken cared of," she said.

"I am in the middle of everything, trying to please my customers and, at the same time, taking care of my employees. With the pending increase, I will try to please both. Bottom line is, if everybody is happy, I believe everything will be fine," she added.

One of the biggest construction companies in the CNMI, RNV Construction, is not immune to the challenges the wage hike will bring.

"Whether you are a big business or a small business, [everything] is affected because it follows that everything else will increase—Federal Insurance Contributions Act tax, construction materials, equipment maintenance, goods, etc.," said Michelle Villaraza-Rueda, comptroller and business manager of RNV.

Despite of that, RNV Construction intends to comply.

Villaraza-Rueda also acknowledged that employees are the lifeblood on the company.

"Manpower is our business' greatest strength. All of our field workers are very important to us because…when we do not have our field workers, we can't finish a single project," she said.

According to her, they are currently studying the market to know the impact of the wage increase on their manpower and operations.

"We will increase the minimum wage and then see the results of the study that we are doing. With past contracts, we projected the cost of manpower at $6.55 per hour and some [projects] are still not finished. That will have a great impact on us because the income from that will be affected."

"Our attitude is that the increase is a good thing for our employees. If there is a wage increase, they will have more savings," she added.

While Fernando Galban welcomes the increase in his salary next week, he is also anticipating a price increase in food and personal amenities.

"The wage increase feels like that nothing will change. Prices of everyday supplies and food have already risen up. Grocery stores have already increased prices on some of their items. Having a 50-cent increase will only make me cope with the existing expensive commodities," Galban said in Tagalog.

Electrician Guiller Castaneda shares Galban's sentiments.

"I have been fortunate that all my employers follow the law. But prices of food and gas have gone up too. This increase will not totally alleviate our lifestyle or give us more spending power. If anything, it will help us to just afford the things that we need," he said in Tagalog.

The minimum wage increase does not only affect minimum wage earners. Workers who get more than the minimum wage are not oblivious to the ripple effect that the increase will have in the economy.

According to Joe (who asked for anonymity), living in the CNMI has become expensive.

"The increase in the minimum wage and in the prices of commodities on island are added challenges to living here. I sympathize with those making the minimum wage. I don't know how they can live here, pay these prices and still send some money home to their family," he said.

According to a professor (whose name has also been withheld), businesses should take some of the burden off consumers.

"I think the wage increase is necessary but such increases in operational expenses should not fall on the consumer. As times change, profit margins should change a well, as we play catch-up with the minimum wage of the U.S. mainland," the professor said.

The next minimum wage increase is expected in September 2018. That would put the CNMI minimum wage at the federal level of $7.25 per hour.

Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman said last week that the ultimate goal is to reach the $7.25 level.

"That was the goal when Congress imposed the minimum wage increase. A lot of the states have since increased their minimum wages and I think Guam is following suit. You would expect the same with the territories at some point. I don't know if it's immediately after we reach the $7.25 or if it will be given some breathing space," he added.

A U.S. Government Accountability Office report in May this year stated that about 62 percent of workers were affected by the wage hike to $6.55 in 2016.

This year, the percentage is yet to be evaluated as the labor force continues to be dynamic and competitive in the CNMI.

CHC

From Page 1

the hospital.

"We have been trying to work with them for weeks to have the bills in the hospital get settled and paid. We have offered prompt payment discounts, provided many deadlines in order for them to compy, and initiated work settlements so both of us can move forward. Despite that, they kept dragging and delaying the process," said Muña.

She said that TakeCare representatives have denied legitimate and documented claims, saying some claims are inaccurate and even went as far as saying that the claims bears the wrong text I.D. numbers.

"We recognize that all of those reasons are delaying tactics," Muña added.

In a statement last night, TakeCare announced the completion of reconciliation of the CHCC's claims from 2012 to June 30, 2017, that were submitted in June 2017.

"As of today, TakeCare has found that there is still an unapplied balance of $226,653.50 from the original advance of $1 million made to CHCC. As this balance is considered an excess payment to [CHC], TakeCare does not owe any further payments for historical claims," the statement added.

TakeCare said it has received notification that CHC "will no longer serve as a network provider to patients with TakeCare Insurance."

"TakeCare would like to make clear, despite CHC sending bills for services rendered directly to TakeCare, TakeCare members have always been self-pay patients at CHC as both parties have not entered into a provider service agreement.

"However, as a professional courtesy and as a matter of convenience for CHC, TakeCare has customarily accepted billings from CHC for covered services rendered to its members, and made payment to CHC subject to policy limitations and the benefit terms of its policies.

"It is our sincere hope that CHC will continue to work with TakeCare to address the claims process, including working on terms of a Direct Payer Agreement," the statement said.

In an interview last month, Muña said the majority of the insurance claims from different insurance companies recognized by CHCC are from the last two years.

Some of them even goes as far back to 2012 but the reality is that majority of those claims, Muña said, are from the last two years and are collectible.

Last August, CHCC hired Tiffany Sablan as Revenue Cycle director and her hiring and other improvements in CHCC's revenue cycle has resulted in updated financial processes in the hospital's billing and collection system.

To date, TakeCare insurance owes CHCC a total of $2.9 million. Last month, TakeCare gave CHCC a $1 million good-faith payment to allow both organizations to reconcile outstanding claims and to provide no disruption in services to TakeCare members.

According to Muña, the $1 million payment and the negotiations that occurred are all indicators that TakeCare and CHCC had a working relationship.

"In fact, there was a letter signed by all insurance companies including TakeCare in 2013 when CEO Juan Babauta was seated, agreeing to the health plans outlined by CHCC, which included room rates, operating room charges, CPT procedures, and for TakeCare now to say that CHCC is not a participating provider in their network is upsetting," Muña said.

TakeCare Insurance said their members are now self-pay patients. Currently, TakeCare's health plans have over 30,000 members in the CNMI.

CHCC continues to provide healthcare to TakeCare insurance members, but they will be responsible to pay in full upfront.

Deadline for TSL Foundation scholarship is extended

The Northern Marianas College has announced that that the Tan Siu Lin Foundation has extended its deadline for the submission of scholarship applications to Friday, Oct. 6, 2017.

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation program awards $1,000 scholarship each to 10 deserving full-time NMC students pursuing an approved institutional degree during the 2017-2018 school year (fall, spring, or summer).

Of the 10 awards, five will be awarded to students who are pursuing a degree in the business field (associate of arts, associate of applied science, or bachelor of science).

The other five scholarships will be awarded to students who are pursuing other degrees (including Education, Nursing, Natural Resources Management, Criminal Justice, or Liberal Arts).

The scholarships will be awarded based on financial need, merit, eligibility, content of each student's written essay, and interview process (if necessary).

The TanHoldings Foundation was formed in 2002 and was renamed after the company's founder and chairman, Dr. Tan Siu Lin. Through the years, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation has launched initiatives and built trusted partnerships with a diverse array of individuals, families, corporations, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies. These partners represent many different backgrounds and income levels. The main mission of the organization is to better serve the regions in which they operate, making the communities a better place to live.

"For several years, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation has provided scholarships to NMC students and has launched the success of many of our graduates," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "We are extremely thankful for the company's long standing support."

The scholarships are based on merit and will be awarded to the recipient on the basis of the candidate's community involvement, academic background, and letters of recommendation. The essay and interview will also play a key role in the final selection of scholarship recipients.

Applications and additional information are available at the NMC Financial Aid Office or may be downloaded from the NMC website at www.marianas.edu. For more information or inquiries, contact the NMC Financial Aid Office at 237-6791 or email Daisy Propst at daisy.propst@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

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Color: Aurora Black
$14,495

2010 Ford Explorer Sport Trac XLT
Stk#AUF03224
Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 4.0 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 43900
Color: Oxford White
$18,995

2011 Ford Ranger Sport Super Cab
Stk# BPA62697
Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 4.0 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 48832
Color: Magnetic Gray
$18,995

2014 Ford Escape SE
Stk#EUB03527
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 1.6 Liter Ecoboost
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 12449
Color: Magnetic Gray
$19,995

2013 Nissan Maxima SV Sport
Stk# DC816012
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 3.5 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 20568
Color: Brilliant Silver
$24,995

2014 Nissan Frontier SV
Stk# EN765588
Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 4.0 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 38812
Color: Brilliant Silver
$24,995

2014 Nissan Murano SL
Stk# EW411794
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 3.5 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 26886
Color: Gun Metallic
$24,995

2015 Nissan Frontier S Crew Cab
Stk# FN763158
Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 4.0 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 5200
Color: Brilliant Silver
$25,995

2015 Nissan Frontier SV Crew Cab
Stk# FN700457
Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 4.0 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 24250
Color: Brilliant Silver
$25,995

2015 Nissan Frontier SV Crew Cab
Stk# FN700151
Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 4.0 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 23361
Color: Arctic Blue
$25,995

2015 Nissan Frontier SV Crew Cab
Stk# FN700804
Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 4.0 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 25000
Color: Gun Metallic
$26,995

2016 Ford F150 Super Crew Cab XL
Stk#GKD66328
Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 5.0 Liter V8
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 8477
Color: Oxford White
$42,995

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Legislature, CPA discuss airport charges

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority met with both chambers of the Legislature last week to discuss fee concerns on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. It was a closed-door meeting.

According to Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), the meeting was an overview of the Federal Aviation Administration definition and qualified use of the Passenger Facility Charges, or PFC.

Sen. Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* that CPA proposed a change of fees and that "the study is still being done."

Quitugua added that CPA did not want to "disseminate the information before the information is finalized."

"Once the information is finalized, then we are able to bring it out to the public," he added.

According to Quitugua, CPA consultants assisting in the matter have already submitted their preliminary recommendation to CPA.

"The airlines would also have to look into it and submit their inputs," he said, adding that the information is subject to change, depending on the airlines' comments.

"[CPA] is hoping that some of the rates would go down once they meet with the airlines and get their input," he said.

Although short on specifics, Igisomar, who also chairs the Senate Committee on Public Utilities and Transportation, told *Saipan Tribune* that the committee would be sending a follow-up letter to CPA on "related matters."

Igisomar said the letter would ask for the listings or schedules of all CPA revenue sources per island airport, and to expand or elaborate their operating revenues, which include aviation fees, concession leases, and other forms of revenue as well as non-operating revenues, such as the PFC.

Igisomar would also ask for an action plan on the purchase of seven more automated passport control systems for the arrival section; the extension and additional staffing of the Ambassador Program; the request of the Federal Aviation Administration for new flight paths on takeoffs; an assessment or study of noise pollution or noise reductions; and whether or not CPA would be requesting for "some sort of airline incentive" and other available FAA waivers through Congress to support inter-island air travels and flights between the CNMI and Asia, specifically Japan.

HPO processes 56 clearances for one-start permits

With continued economic developments and earthmoving projects, the Historic Preservation Office has processed an additional 56 clearances for one-start permits.

Historic Preservation officer Mertie Kani stated that HPO review and compliance has reviewed and processed these permit applications from the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality for the three islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota during this reporting period.

For the island of Saipan, HPO has so far processed a total of 451 clearances, while also processing two for Tinian, and three for Rota this fiscal year, Kani said.

"At the close of July, a total of 66 permits were processed. For the month of August, 56 clearances were given. Of these clearances, there are two permit applications that the HPO imposed on the permittees to obtain the services of a professional archaeologist due to the project location's sensitive archaeological environment. At the end of September, we'll be able to see if any more developments are seeking clearance and remain compliant," she said.

Currently, Kani adds, HPO has two Coastal Resource Management major sitting permit project reviews.

"Last month, we've had ongoing subsurface testing activities, which included the highly sensitive historic and archaeological environment of Chalan Kanoa. This time, we've recently reviewed and completed a major siting permit research design for archaeological inventory survey in support of a new judiciary building and business complex in Garapan. We've also conducted a preliminary report for archaeological investigations and supplementary information of Zen Homes in Gualo Rai," Kani said.

With over 450 earthmoving projects this year, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres noted that the one-start permitting process has benefitted economic development.

"With over 450 earthmoving projects, it remains crucial that developments are compliant and that proposed projects do not jeopardize our island's resources. The diligence performed by all our permitting agencies continues and, through this permitting process, we've been able to increase efficiency and quality of services. I want to reiterate that earthmoving activities can affect the balance of our environment. …At the end of the day, we must ensure that these activities are done in a way that minimizes environmental impacts and that we stay cognizant of preserving these areas for the future," Torres said.

BECQ reviews and manages the Inter-Agency One-Start Earthmoving and Erosion Control Permit application for both commercial and non-commercial activities and by law must be completed within 21 calendar days. These regulations have ensured inter-agency compliance and streamlining. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DPL closed on Friday

The Department of Public Lands will be closed on Friday, Sept. 29, 2017, for an all-day professional development workshop. The DPL office on Tinian will be closed but the office on Rota will remain open. DPL will resume operation on Monday, Oct. 2, 2017. Contact DPL at (670) 234-3751 with any questions or concerns. ***(PR)***

Tinian mayor to request for military assistance

The Office of the Tinian Mayor intends to solicit assistance from the Department of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training Program. The assistance will include no-cost dental care and related services. The proposed assistance will take place at Tinian Health Center during the month of September 2018.

Dental providers or private citizens who have questions or who wish to voice opposition to military assistance for the project may contact Ignacio P. Kiyoshi Jr. at the Office of the Mayor at 433-1800/3222 no later than seven days after publication of this notice.

Persons not filing comments within the time frame noted will be considered to have waived their objections to military assistance for the project. Info can be found at http://irt.defense.gov/. ***(PR)***

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ACCOUNTANT

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence (NMCADSV) is looking for a motivated individual to join its team! We are looking for someone who is rooted in service and believes in the social justice values we uphold.

Minimum Qualifications:
An understanding of and agreement with NMCADSV's mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence.
CPA required.
Experience working on non-profit fiscal management and federal grants.
Must be able to travel within the CNMI and to the US Mainland.
Must have own transportation, with documented insurance, registration and a valid driver's license.

Extra consideration will be given for the following:
Quickbooks and Microsoft Excel expertise.
Familiarity with 2 CFR, Chapter I, Chapter II, Part 200, et. al.

Classification & Salary Range: Part-time, Non-Exempt. 20 – 30 hours per week.
$20.00/hr to $25.00/hr (based on experience and qualifications)

Copies of the full Position Description are available through maisie@endviolencenmi.org or via hard copy at the NMCADSV office (directions below).

Application Deadline and Submission Information:
Resume and Cover Letter should be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on
Friday, October 20, 2017.
If submitting certificates and awards, please provide a list only.
Late and incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Applications may be submitted via email to maisie@endviolencenmi.org, delivered to NMCADSV's office **(between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.)** at the Spring's Plaza Building on Middle Road (north of XO Market), or mailed to NMCADSV, P.O. Box 506689, Saipan, MP 96950. (Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before the deadline.) Applicants who are invited for an interview will be asked to bring a copy of their Diploma or equivalent, Police Clearance, proof of Certification, and a list of references.

NMCADSV is an equal opportunity employer. Individuals from under-served communities are encouraged to apply.

This project is 100% supported by federal grants, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, Grant Award #2015-MU-AX-0003 and Grant # G-1701MPSDVC awarded by the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this release are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Program Officer
Northern Marianas Humanities Council

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council) is inviting dynamic, motivated, and self-driven individuals with strong interest in the humanities to submit an employment application for the position of Program Officer.

The Program Officer is responsible for developing and implementing a variety of humanities programs and events and coordinating the Council's Community Grants program under the supervision of the Council's executive director. A detailed description of the Program Officer's duties may be obtained from the Council's office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai or from the Council's website at www.nmihumanities.org.

Applicants for this position must possess: (1). strong analytic, writing and communication skills; (2). knowledge of grants writing and grants administration; (3). the ability to work effectively with people from diverse backgrounds; (4). a working knowledge of NMI history and of current political, social and economic issues confronting the local community; (5). basic computer skills including knowledge of MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint; and (6). the ability to articulate the Council's mission to a wide range of audiences.

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree (B.A. or B.S.) in a humanities discipline from an accredited post-secondary institution. The salary range is from $35,000 to $40,000 depending on qualifications and experience. Benefits are set forth in the Council's Personnel Policy Manual.

Interested individuals are invited to send an application package including: (1). letter of interest; (2). detailed résumé; (3). a writing sample (500-800 words on a humanities topic of your choice); and (4). the names and addresses of three references to Scott Russell, Executive Director, Northern Marianas Humanities Council, Box 506437, Saipan, MP 96950. Complete application packages must be received by Council staff on or before 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 6, 2017. For more information about this employment opportunity please contact Council staff at 235-4785.

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is an equal opportunity employer.

$992,000 grant for CNMI home visiting services

The U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration recently awarded the CNMI $992,000 for its home visiting program.

The money will fund the Healthy Outcomes for Maternal and Early-Childhood, or H.O.M.E., Visiting Program to support evidence-based home visiting services.

The program offers visiting services on a voluntary basis to families in the CNMI.

It is administered through the Maternal & Child Health Bureau of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Division of Public Health Services.

The H.O.M.E. program helps parents and caregivers connect with services and resources and improve the skills they need to support their families' wellbeing and provide the best opportunities for their children.

Home visiting programs give pregnant women and families, particularly those considered at-risk, necessary resources and skills to raise children who are physically, socially, and emotionally healthy and ready to learn.

For more information on how to enroll, call 670-664-8700/03 or email hvpcnmi@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Heather Barcinas is promoted

Barcinas

Assistant attorney general Heather P. Barcinas has been promoted to lead the white-collar crime and public corruption unit of the Office of the Attorney General.

In an OAG statement yesterday, it said that Barcinas replaces former prosecutor Matt Baisley, who left the office in July.

Barcinas will be responsible for the prosecution of white collar crime and public corruption cases in the CNMI of which she strongly aims to prosecute to the fullest extent possible under law.

"I am pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Barcinas to lead the unit," said Attorney General Edward Manibusan. "It is evident through her hard work that Ms. Barcinas will continue to succeed in our office and, most importantly, in her new role. I can attest to her capabilities and her commitment to serve the people of the CNMI."

Through a memorandum of agreement between the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Public Auditor, and the Department of Public Safety, Barcinas will continue to work in conjunction with these agencies as a joint multi-task force member. ***(OAG)***

War
in the
Pacific
A Difficult Heritage
Our heritage is our past. It is the reminder of who we are, where we came from, and can even give us clues to where we are going. War in the Pacific will engage veterans of contemporary wars, surviving civilian participants of WWII, and families of veterans in considering how war and its difficult heritage can be seen as universal to humanity and how it can be used to understand the veteran's experience and even heal and renew.
Join us in exploring the history of two significant conflicts in the Mariana Islands, the Spanish-Chamorro Wars and WWII, as we look at books, films, poetry, archaeological sites, artifacts, and more to explore the shared human experience of war.
October 2,3,5 & 9 6-8:30pm
& October 7 9am-5pm
FREE but spaces are limited
* A reader and refreshments will be provided. A certificate of completion and challenge coin will be presented at a commencement ceremony.
All activites will take place at American Memorial Park unless otherwise noted.
https://cnmiheritage.wordpress.com/
Contact: Humanities Council @ 1(670)235-4785 or Dr. Jen McKinnon @ mckinnonje@ecu.edu
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE Humanities
East Carolina UNIVERSITY
Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-18-001

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 & 2018

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to perform a financial and compliance audit of the CUC for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017 & 2018. The audit must be performed in compliance with the latest revision of the following guidelines:

- *OMB Circular A-133*
- *Standard for Audits of Government Organization, Programs, Activities and Function, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States*
- *Audits of States and Local Government Units, Industry Audit guide issued by the American Institute of Public Accountants (AICPA)*
- *Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS)*

The date of contract award will be no later than November 17, 2017. Audit work shall commence thereafter and must be completed by January 31, 2018 (FY17) & 2019 (FY18). Auditors are responsible to review all the 2017 & 2018 financial statements to include the physical CUC assets.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-RFP-18-001, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2017 & 2018**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **October 23, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 10, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. , CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Antonio Castro, CUC Chief Financial Officer, via email address antonio.castro@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Electricity shocks construction worker

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A 30-year-old construction worker was allegedly injured by electric shock at the casino project in Garapan Monday afternoon.

As this developed, a 25-year-old woman was revived after a near-drowning incident at a private swimming pool on Railroad Drive in Papago Monday afternoon.

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services spokesman Derek Gersonde said they received a call from Department of Public Safety 911 dispatch at 3:19pm on Monday, reporting that a worker had been "electrocuted" at the construction site of the Imperial Pacific Resort.

DFEMS medics came upon a man who was showing signs of pain on his left arm and some burns on his hand, said Gersonde.

According to the on-scene translator, the worker, a Chinese national, had been using an electric saw when he suddenly received an electric shock.

Medics brought the worker to the Commonwealth Health Center.

DFEMS did not release information about the victim's condition.

In the near-drowning case, Gersonde said that that DFEMS received a call from DPS 911 dispatch at 3:05pm on Monday about a possible drowning incident at a home in Papago.

Upon arriving at the house, medics came upon a 25-year-old woman who was being revived by a bystander via cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Medics found the woman with no pulse and not breathing. Emergency medical technicians then performed CPR on scene and on the way to CHC.

EMTs later left the hospital after the victim was found to have a pulse, Gersonde said.

MCHB joins annual car seat check

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the first time, the Maternal and Child Health Bureau took part in the National Car Seat Safety Check at the Susupe Civic Center last Saturday.

Hosted annually by the Department of Public Safety, the event, which was also a Family Fun Day, was intended to promote car seat safety.

According to DPS Child Protection and Child restrain program manager Conrad Castro, the National Car Seat Safety Check is an annual event in the United States and its territories.

It has become an annual tradition for DPS, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, and the Public School System. This year was significant because MCHB decided to take part.

According to MCHB Family Assessment worker Leiana Ogumoro Saures, they joined the campaign because they support the effort to protect children.

"They [DPS] work with children with the car seat safety and that is one of the education services that we provide to our families that are in the Home Visiting Program under the Maternal and Child Health Bureau," said Saures.

Saures encouraged families to visit their office or DPS and make use of the many services that both agencies provide.

DPS was able to conduct over 20 car seat inspections last Saturday.

Castro invites families and individuals to visit DPS from 9am to 11am and 1pm to 3pm for car seat inspections.

According to Saures, over 100 individuals came out for the car seat check and fun day. The bureau also gave out T-shirts and water bottles to registered participants.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-18-002

KAGMAN WATERLINE & BOOSTER STATION REHABILITATION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Kagman Waterline and Booster Station Rehabilitation Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

General Description: This work consists of replacing the existing Kumoi booster station and relocating it to the Chacha and Kagman Road intersection. It also includes the rehabilitation of an existing deep well, the installation of a new 6" PVC distribution, and the installation of a new 8" PVC transmission waterline along Kagman Road. It will also involve the reconnection of existing customers onto new or existing distribution lines within the project area.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from the USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **October 5, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. Prospective Bidders are mandated to attend both the Pre-Bid Conference and the Site Visit.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-18-002, Kagman Waterline and Booster Station Rehabilitation Project,"* to the **CUC Procurement & Supply Office**, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 26, 2017** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 10, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer- via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nick Schreiner, Water-Wastewater, Engineer–via email address nick.schreiner@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-028

TANK 104 REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL POWER PLANT 1, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Removal and Disposal of Tank 104 at Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan.

The project consists, of the Cutting for Disposal and Removal of Tank 104 (now empty and cleaned) together with off-site disposal of all tank materials, including its steel floor.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **90 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **October 12, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. Prospective Bidders are mandated to attend both Pre-Bid and Site Visit.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-17-028 Removal and Disposal of Tank 104, Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 25, 2017,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 16, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Max Simian, CUC Technical Manager for Oil – via email max.simian@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Yoshizawa off to Hyatt competition in Tokyo

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Reiji Yoshizawa, a chef de partie at Hyatt Regency Saipan whose specialty revolves around French and Italian cuisine, will be the representing Micronesia at the inaugural regional semifinals of the Good Taste Series 2017 that will be held in Tokyo next month.

The annual competition rewards the best of the best among Hyatt kitchens, where chefs are able to showcase their culinary expertise at a competitive level.

The contest was launched in the U.S. mainland six years ago; it is only this year that Hyatt extended the challenge globally, said executive chef Gabriele Colombo.

"So, Yoshizawa is the first chef to represent the Micronesia region," he added.

Yoshizawa, who was born on Saipan, studied culinary arts. At 19, he flew to Miami Beach, Florida to intern at the Setai Hotel, considered a five-star luxury hotel.

After six months, he was absorbed to become cook 1. After a year he was promoted to demi chef de partie. He is currently Hyatt Regency Saipan's chef de partie at the young age of 26.

"I worked in Setai Hotel for a total of four years and six months, after which I decided to leave and come back here to Saipan to see how things are going and this curiosity led me to apply at the Hyatt Regency Saipan in 2015," said Yoshizawa.

Yoshizawa's talent and skills did not go unnoticed. Colombo was quick to see the young chef's potential and promoted him to sous chef after a year.

"Knowing his background and experience, I was already impressed when he arrived here. I had a good feeling about his talent, creativity and vision. We immediately put him to work at Giovanni's Restaurant," said Colombo.

"We conducted an internal competition among five chefs here at Hyatt Saipan: three sous chefs from Miyako, one from Teppanyaki, and one from Giovanni's and Yoshizawa was declared the winner. With the upcoming competition, this is a good chance to grow his career," he added.

According to Yoshizawa, the internal competition allowed him to prepare mentally.

"I think a good preparation is the key. I continuously study and read books on culinary techniques and gain inspiration from other successful chefs who have made a name in this industry to keep me motivated. I focus on every dish and put my heart in it," he said.

As the competition draws nearer, Yoshizawa recognizes the honor of representing CNMI.

"I feel proud and grateful to be representing Hyatt Regency Saipan. It has been my home for the past two years. I feel nervous sometimes but I also know that this is a good exposure for me because of the level of competition, competing with other international top chefs with great backgrounds will be a good challenge," he said.

"I know this experience is going to push me harder to be a better individual and a better chef and I thank my Hyatt family—chef Colombo, Miss Claudine [Camacho], my team, and the rest—for their support and trust in me," Yoshizawa added.

Hyatt marketing communications manager Claudine Camacho said Hyatt management always believes in its homegrown talents.

"Whether an individual comes in fresh from high school or come in as a culinary arts graduate, we always want to push for better success. We encourage our employees to take it a step further. Making one's self better and these kinds of competitions for our chefs definitely helps in their development. We push everyone to be brighter, bolder, and have bigger experiences," she said.

If the other international chefs ask him to describe Saipan, Yoshizawa plans to tell them about the island as a dish. "Beautiful, lots of colors, flavorful, and most importantly, there is heart in that dish."

If Yoshizawa wins the regional semifinals in Tokyo, he will move on to the finals that will be held in Hong Kong on Oct. 30, 2017. The winner from the Asia-Pacific region will then go to Chicago for the grand competition in 2018 at the Hyatt headquarters.

Frances Demapan joins OAG

Frances T. Demapan has joined the CNMI Office of the Attorney General as assistant attorney general.

In an announcement yesterday, it said that Demapan joins the prosecution team of the criminal division where she will serve as traffic prosecutor.

Demapan

Demapan began her career as a research associate at the University of Hawaii at Manoa Environmental Law Program in 2013, and most recently served as law clerk for the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.

"We are excited to have Ms. Demapan join our team," said Attorney General Edward Manibusan. "She will be a great asset and I firmly believe that she will be a valued resource for the people we serve."

A graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Demapan earned her Juris Doctor from the William S. Richardson School of Law in 2015.

In 2010, Demapan obtained a bachelor's degree from New York University where she majored in English and American Literature.

Demapan is admitted to practice law in the CNMI and Hawaii and holds memberships in various groups such as CNMI Bar Association, Hawaii Bar Association, Hawaii Women Lawyers, American Bar Association, and Marianas Young Professionals. ***(OAG)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM, DR-4235-MP
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Addendum No. 1
09/25/2017

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

2014 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Standard State Mitigation Plan Update
RFP17-GOV-213

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the CNMI Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors/consultants to update the 2014 Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands Standard State Mitigation Plan (2014 CNMI SSMP).

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

The project package will be available beginning September 20, 2017 at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan or via email. Please request project package via email attention: Leona DLG. Sablan, leona.cip@gmail.com or Antonette DLG. Norita, anorita.hm@gmail.com. A pre-proposal meeting regarding this project will be held at 10:00 a.m. on October 10, 2017 at the Office of the Governor's conference room in Capitol Hill.

Questions about this request for proposal shall be addressed to the HMGP Office attention: Leona DLG. Sablan, in writing via e-mail: leona.cip@gmail.com or facsimile (670) 664-2408 no later than 4:00 p.m., ChST, October 12, 2017.

The total proposal length shall not exceed 15 pages in length. A contractor that submits a proposal as a prime contractor cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, a company may be included in multiple proposals by different contractors.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1.	Qualifications and experience on similar projects	30%
2.	Work load and resources to accomplish work	10%
3.	Project Approach & Schedule	10%
4.	Cost	50%

Performance time for completion of this project is 180 calendar days upon issuance of notice to proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 180 calendar days, the contract price and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top 3 ranked contractors. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified contractor to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 70.3.3-245 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Fee proposals are solicited; however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified firm. Such fee proposals is to be used in determining a fair and reasonable contract price.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **RFP17-GOV-213 2014 CNMI Standard State Mitigation Plan Update.** For proposers within the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, October 18, 2017. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent to propose. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, October 18, 2017 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com.

For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, October 18, 2017 and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than October 27, 2017. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

Herman S. Sablan
Director of Procurement and Supply

Department of Labor

CNMI-OSHA "FREE" On-Site Consultation Services:

Are you an employer who wants to protect your employees' safety and health, but who needs some expert assistance? Are you concerned that your business cannot afford the cost of professional help?

Call now! Good News in an Attractive Package: The Price is right!

Free – services are provided are free and supported by Federal funds.

Voluntary – Consultation services are voluntary, an employer must request service and agree to certain obligations, primarily that the employer agrees to correct all hazards found during the consultation visit within an agreed-upon time frame.

Smaller Business – Specifically designed for small and medium sized business – not more than 250 employees.

No Penalty – No citations are issued for hazards identified by the consultant, and no penalties are ever proposed

Confidentiality – Public disclosure & enforcement disclosure (consultation result not publicized or shared with OSHA enforcement). Except in situations where imminent danger or serious hazards are not corrected as agreed upon.

Full Service Consultation – Full service consultation covers all working conditions and includes assistance in establishing effective workplace safety and health programs, also may include training and education for you, supervisors, and your other employees.

Benefits – First and foremost, your increased understanding of workplace hazards and remedies will enable you to protect your workers from injury and illness.

Consultation in Action: Five (5) Steps to success

1) Requesting Assistance – Consultation starts with your request which may be telephone call, a letter, personal contact to CNMI-OSHA Office or email.
2) The opening conference
3) The Walkthrough
4) The closing conference
5) Hazard Correction After the Visit

Consultation will "NOT":

- Issue citations or propose penalties for violations of federal or states OSHA standard
- Guarantee that any workplace will "pass" a federal or state OSHA INSPECTIONS

When you request consultation service, by the completion of the process you will receive:

- An appraisal of all mechanical and environmental hazards and physical work practices;
- An appraisal of the present job safety and health program or the establishment of one;
- A conference to review findings;
- A written report of recommendations and agreements
- Training and assistance with implementing recommendations
- Follow-up by the consultant to ensure that any required corrections have been made

For more information please contact CNMI-OSHA On-Site Consultation Program at
Tel: No. 664-3156/3157, Cell: No. 287-7531
or visit our office
At Capitol Hill, 1338 Ascension Dr.
Ask for
Elaine Pangelinan
Joey Pangelinan
Or, Mariana Coates

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

What disrespect?

So far as we know, no NFL players spat on or burned the flag this weekend. They didn't drag it on the ground or tear it apart. When the national anthem was performed before games, they did not turn their backs or talk or make rude gestures. Some linked arms in a show of unity; others knelt, an act that connotes respect, piety and humility. In what is normally a rote ceremony before the start of a game, the players, whether they stood, rested on a bent knee or stayed in the locker room, displayed solemnity and mindfulness. Kneeling is not the protocol outlined in the U.S. Flag Code—an unenforceable statute that says all should face the flag while the anthem plays, with hands over hearts or, in the case of the military, in salute—but it nonetheless suggested a commitment to fostering the freedom and justice that is America's promise.

Sen. Ben Sasse, a Nebraska Republican, was probably right when he warned that NFL players, coaches and owners were doing exactly what President Donald Trump wanted.

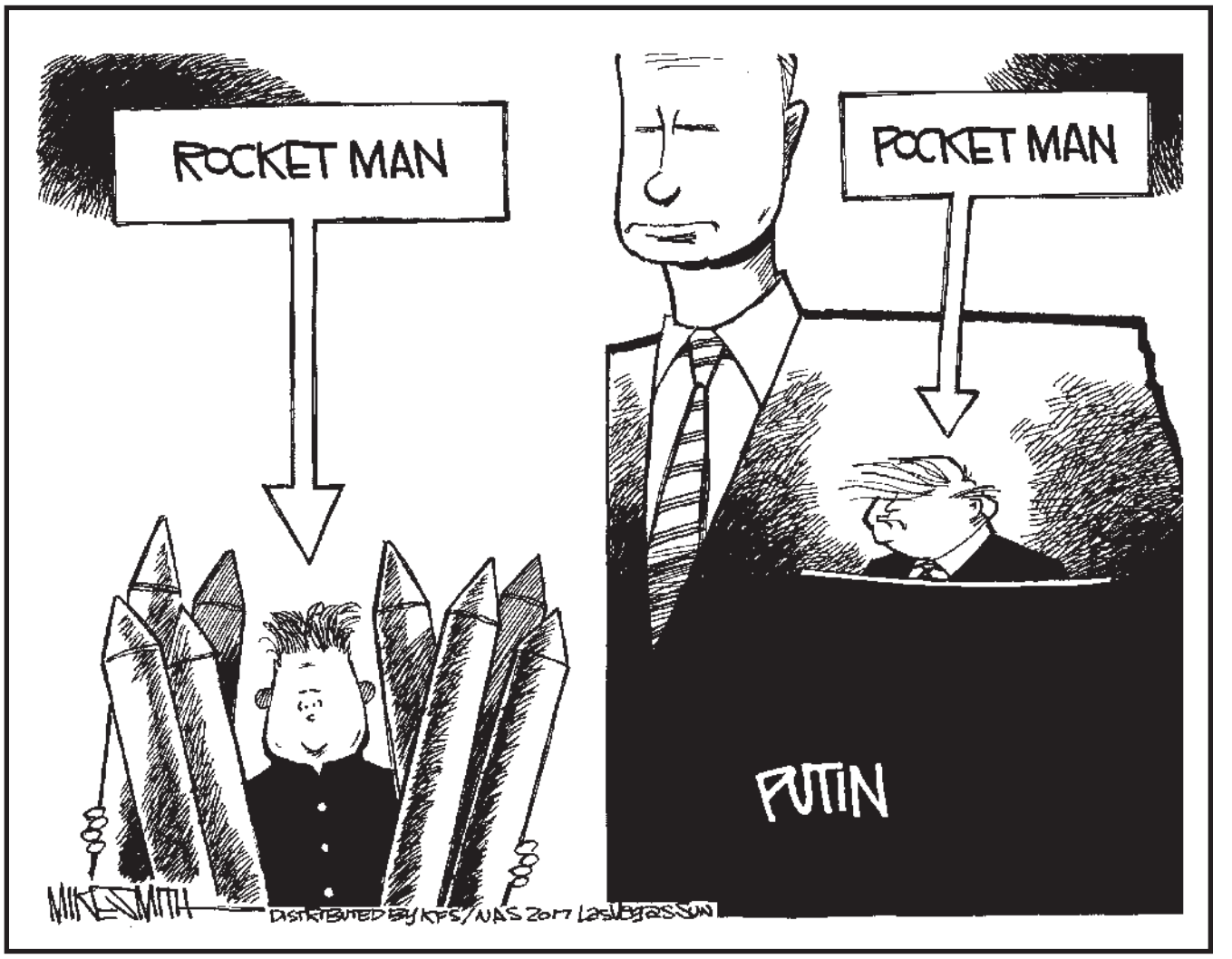
He thrives on jingoistic patriotism and division. He is adept at changing the subject from the hard acts of governance at which he is failing and the promises he is breaking—from fixing the faults of the healthcare system to reforming the tax code to keeping us and our allies safe from threats like North Korea—to some new, manufactured populist cultural outrage. What happened on Sunday was probably beyond his wildest hopes when he profanely suggested that NFL owners fire anyone who protests during the national anthem, which he said displays "a total disrespect for everything we stand for."

The protests have nothing to do with the Star Spangled Banner or the flag. Rather, they began last year when quarterback Colin Kaepernick choose to sit and later to kneel during the anthem as a means to draw attention to cases of police brutality against blacks. But Trump has turned it into something else, never mind what the kneeling is actually about.

It's fair to ask what drove so many in the NFL to take an action that, up until Friday night, was treated as something akin to a cancer in the league. Is the sudden turnaround because the players, coaches and owners have woken up to what Kaepernick has been saying? Is it because they reject a president who would seek to quell anyone's right to free speech and protest? Or are they simply exhibiting a tribal reaction to the president in just the same way Trump is trying to elicit a tribal reaction among his core supporters? After seeing what happened to Kaepernick, would anyone have knelt during the anthem this year if Trump hadn't all but dared them to do it, and will anyone continue after the president, inevitably, moves on to some new wedge issue?

Former Attorney General Eric Holder tweeted an elegant rebuke to President Trump on Sunday. "Taking a knee is not without precedent President," he wrote over a photo of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and others kneeling. "Those who dared to protest have helped bring positive change."

(c)2017 The Baltimore Sun



Two earthquakes, two different responses

By AGUSTIN BARRIOS GOMEZ
Los Angeles Times

Agustin Barrios Gomez is a former federal congressman for Mexico City and president of the Mexico Image Foundation. Follow him on Twitter @AgustinBarriosG. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times

At 22 million people, metropolitan Mexico City is the largest urban area in our hemisphere. As the capital of New Spain, it governed a massive empire, stretching from the Philippines to Utah. The symbol of the eagle and the snake, which is at the center of our flag, commemorates its founding. It is a modern-day megalopolis with pyramids, cathedrals, skyscrapers, huge parks and frantic urban blight. Uber's biggest urban market is a mecca for foodies and culture.

It is also in the center of a geological mosh pit.

On Sept. 19, 1985, an earthquake registering 8.1 on the Richter scale struck Mexico City. Partly because of inadequate building codes, the death toll reached upward of 20,000 people. Electricity, telephones, the airport, the subway—all were down for several days.

The government's failure was especially glaring. Insular and out of touch after 56 years of single-party rule, then-President Miguel de la Madrid responded testily to offers of international help by declaring, "We are self-sufficient." We were not, but we tried to be. In collective shock at the lack of response from their government, Mexicans self-organized. We coordinated massive relief efforts that saved many thousands of lives, and we rebuilt astonishingly fast.

In 2000, when de la Madrid's Institutional Revolutionary Party finally handed power over to the opposition, newly elected President Vicente Fox would declare that modern democracy in Mexico was the product of civil society finding its strength after the 1985 earthquake.

Exactly 32 years later, on Sept. 19, 2017, a combination trepidatory (up-and-down) and oscillatory (side-to-side) 7.1 earthquake hit, 12 days after a nearby oscillatory 8.2 quake. The Richter scale measures energy released, not the violence of the quake, which has more to do with location, depth and geological characteristics of the affected area. So the 7.1 felt 10 times worse than the 8.2. You've seen the videos shot around the city by stunned citizens—and they are terrible.

But unlike in 1985, government, civil society and the building codes are much more resilient. Electricity, telephones, the airport, the subway—all are functioning. In what has to be one of the great coincidences of the decade, two hours before the earthquake struck, the city performed its annual seismic drill. (It takes place on the anniversary of the 1985 quake.) We have an earthquake early warning system mounted on each of the city's 15,000 CCTV cameras. Up to 90 seconds' warning can make the difference between deaths in the hundreds or the thousands.

Thirty-two years ago, the federal government turned away help that already had arrived at the Mexico City airport (including a Swiss canine unit trained to find bodies after an avalanche—a transferable skill. My father, the ambassador to Switzerland at the time, managed to get them into the city despite official disapproval.). This time, the Mexican tax authorities are waving import duties on international goods sent to help emergency efforts. Cellphone service is available, and Wi-Fi hot spots are free. Uber is shuttling volunteers to rescue operations. Amazon Mexico teamed up with the Red Cross to create a massive relief "wish list" so good Samaritans can donate directly. Google Maps has helped us identify the location of collapsed buildings so we can channel aid there.

In his weekly column, Mexican journalist Leo Zuckermann declared himself twice as proud today as he was in 1985 to be a Chilango, as we Mexico City residents call ourselves. He's proud to see how all of our efforts, and billions of dollars, have paid off in earthquake preparedness. But he's also proud to see evidence of other seismic changes.

Since 1985, we have built what is arguably the most sophisticated electoral system in the world. We have gone from being a country dependent on petrodollars to one that is a major manufacturing powerhouse, with a diversified economy that is among the biggest in the world.

One thing that has not changed: the awe-inspiring selflessness and generosity that Mexicans show in crises. It was the driving force behind the civilian activism that would transform the country in the 1980s and 1990s. And it is evident today, even (perhaps especially) among the more than half of the population that hadn't been born in 1985. That is particularly relevant now, when egotism is not only ubiquitous, but often celebrated. Not here. Not today.

Of course there's more work to be done. There always is. But if we created a democracy from the rubble of 1985, we can strengthen that democracy from the rubble of 2017, ending corruption and impunity in the same way that we ended single-party rule.

As the dust settles, the signs are good.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Selebrasion kuttura

Gi selebrasion kutturan tano`ta yan tautau-ta, propiu ta renueba haf` umatbansa modun linala` natibu desde antigu na tiempu.

Gaige hale`ña este gi estorian mañainata ni ta huñgog desde antes. Estague` na sahyan umesgaihon linala-ta pot taya` mantuge` gi liñguahita gi antigu na komunidat natibu.

Klaru na liñguahen estoria! Ginen este `nai ta sustene haf` iyota.

Oppan i maladisision kada nasion ni humatme tano`ta preparau para u destrosia liñguahe yan kuttura-ta. Gi sakan 1668 i primet biahe `nai ma-establese fotmat na sisteman edukasion giya Guahan as Pale Luis De San Vitores.

I matuge` finu` Chamorro malimitte gi materiat relihion Katoliku. Kase estague` lokue` chumachalane ineyag ABCD yan AEIOU gi mas elementariu na matuge` finu` Chamorro. Enfin, mababa apppottunidat.

`Nai sige hu petsige haf` siha mantuge` pot fina`pus natibu, memegaiña sineda`hu gi materiat relihion desde dottrina yan kantan Guma` Yuus. `Nos kuantos lokue` gaige gi matuge` na disision kotte antes.

I PSS mauleg gi finana`guen liñguahe konbetsasion yan matuge` Chamorro. Huli`e gi dos nietu tinige` niha komplidu na sentensia. Ma`lag ha espehus este superiot na kualidat maestra gi leksion finu` Chamorro. Saludu yan sinsiyu na agradesimentu para si Señora Alma K. Villagomez.

I para ta atbansa sumustene kutturan natibu debi uma`udai gi fitme yan lagse` na galaide` liñguahen tanu parehu ha` Chamorro yan Karolinas. Este i solu sahyan gi todu animuta para ta sustene pogse` haf` iyota.

Achaki: Mampos na chatsaga minalañgu gi maseha haye gi familia. Mas makat `nai i chenot didog `sino ti amtiyun. I mana` sagan malañgu gi hospitat pat manahanau para hospitat hiyuñg Marianas otru katgu na sumen makat gi familia.

Malofan-yu` siete años segidu guine na katsada `nai guahu tinetpe nu este na chinatsaga. Uttimu esperansa yan inañgoghu i hu pega enteramente ha`anihu gi kanai i Saina. Sinparat lokue` mangagau-yu` minesñgon-hu pot para bai siña umatende malañgu-hu.

Grasias adios na mana`e-yu` ni finaisenhu ni Saina, patronhu as St. Jude yan nanan yine`ase` as Santa Maria. Añklan espirituat solu fitme gi halum manloka` lañgat sapet gi lina`la-ta. Tat mas ke bendision i Saina!

Talaya: `Nai man-famaguon ham, sessu in` dalag un` bihun mame tumalaya giya Puntan Muchot. Dispues de ha dagau, ha tantan tapadan tiau yan faya gi hilu` unai. In` ge`naf, hinagua, yan pega gi lagua`.

`An man-mattu ham gi gima`, in` kamyu dos ma`sun ni manadaña gi mañge` na kelaguen tiau. Mañge` na amotsa. Hu sen agradesi ayu na biahen mame yan i amku` pot nesessidat mantension familia.

Sessu lokue` manbiahe ham para i lanchun as Perdido yan Tagpochau man-mananum `agun natibu para usun familia. Desde todu klasen choda, sune, kamute, nika, yan dagu in` tanum.

Ha fanu`e ham si tatan mame satbasion gi hilu` te`ug na pinepble. Satbasion gaige giya hagu ya solu ke kalamten hau siempre puru yeñgyuñg adeñg todu dia yan inairen tililpas lodu`.

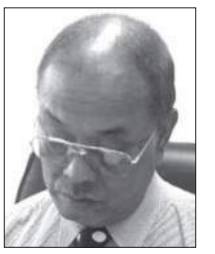
Anaku` yan makat ayu na tiempu `nai megai mantai che`chu` gi hinanau i Navy guine. Sinparat kada unu yan todu mañaunau gi inaligau mantension familia desde chagchag oga`an esta i oran deskansu `an pueñge. Ti anog i pinepblen familia sa` mayotmente mamopble guine na mattiru.

Katma: Guaha `nai malag kantun tasi-yu` gi lemlem tautau. Bonitu, kulan isa i mapagahes gi lañget. Katma i tasi haf` na laña, punta pot punta. Ayu `nai hu sosoda` ginefsagag-hu yan sensian katma gi uttimun ha`ane. Entre este `sino gi silensiu na patte gi barandan santatte.

Mauleg na eksisiu para unna` katma hinasso-mu diariu. Mas menos chathinasso-mu yan homlu` para hagu mismu. Liabianu un` atan katkuet asuntu gi merituña yan mauleg dispues na disposision. Mientras mas mona mas homhum i sanlagu. Finagpu` ha`ane giya paraisu. Katma.

**Man-ñgiñge`:** Kulan mas mafa` usu chikun fasu ke man-ñgiñge` na tiempu. Ti baba na eksisiu. Lau mas fitme man-ñgiñge`

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune*.*

pot dos puntu: Respetu yan motmut bendision na u felis hinanau i patgon. Estague` minetgotña ma-implantan sensian hinimiddi gi famaguon-ta. In` hassu si Judas `nai ha chiku si Jesukristu dispues ha traidute?

Dinage: Ilegña un` afamau na titige` na i dinage ni kada ratu marepite siña dispues mahoñge na magahet. Ni taimanu na salamañkamu ni asuntu, faktu na i dinage intaktu dinage! Mañgge konsensia-mu kumu echu tautau? Adahe na heñiu para un atisa dinage!

Peskadot: Humanu peskadot halum tanu` yan ga`ña galagu (kasadules). Magahet na mañgone` binadu. Megai lokue` hinekaña chada` `nai ha soda sabanetan sasñgat. Ti hoñgiyun dañkulun chada gi dikiki` na paluma!

I kutturan maseha manu na tanu`, gaige liñguahe, relihion, trahe, kanta, baila, che`chu` yan areglun familia yan relasion mauleg na komunida. Un` asuntu hu soda` parehu maseha manu giya Pasifiku: kutturan inana`e. Metgot este antes gi hagas soñgsoñg Chalan Kanoa.

Huñgan man-a`ana`e hit esta pa`gu piot i man-hihot na familia. Estague` kustumbren tautau isla maseha manu. Libianu ta kubre nesessidat haye na che`lu mamakat ha prebeniyen maisa familiaña.

Este na sensian yine`ase` ginen mañaina-ta. Poresu na `an ta lagnos kanaita man-ayuda klaru na ginen i korasonta. Mauleg tafama gi karera mona.

On drug prosecution: A balanced approach to the 'ice' epidemic

Use of crystal methamphetamine, commonly known as "ice," is an epidemic spreading across the Commonwealth. Our statistics show a significant increase in the number of referrals from the CNMI Drug Task Force for the offenses of trafficking and illegal possession of a controlled substance. The number of cases prosecuted by the Office of the Attorney General more than tripled in the last few years. In 2013, we prosecuted 16 drug cases, followed by 11 cases in 2014, 25 in 2015, and 44 in 2016. The OAG believes that these numbers will only increase in the years to come if we do not address the root of the drug epidemic in the CNMI, specifically the behavioral impact the drug has on addicts.

In 2017, the OAG has thus far charged 36 drug cases, 32 of which involve trafficking. Most of these cases involve the trafficking of five grams or less of crystal methamphetamine. The prosecutors have observed that the defendants tend to be addicts selling to support their own habit.

Those who commit crimes should be punished. Realistically, the OAG cannot take every case to trial. With my approval, the prosecutors developed a policy and guidelines for plea negotiations in drug cases based on criminal justice studies. The majority of the studies suggest lengthy jail sentences are not an effective means for dealing with drug addiction. Rehabilitation is more effective than a sentence of only imprisonment.

Not every drug case will lead to a plea negotiation. In assessing the appropriateness of a negotiated plea, our office takes into consideration several factors, such as the weight of the evidence, the circumstances of the offense, the costs associated with trial, and the uncertainty of a conviction. A plea negotiation that includes an immediate incarceration of the offender accomplishes our goal of protecting the community from the defendant and further harm to the community.

Our policy also provides an opportunity for a person to change his or her life. When a case is amended to a charge that carries a maximum of five years, as opposed to the 25 years required under the trafficking statute, we do so after careful consideration of the factors listed in our policy. Our sentencing proposals over the past three years have been consistent.

According to the reported cases, most trafficking cases in the Commonwealth involve five grams of crystal meth or less. Under our policy, if approved for plea negotiations, a proposal for trafficking of five grams of crystal meth or less will generally be offered a range of zero to five years imprisonment for a reduced charge.

By EDWARD MANIBUSAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Edward Manibusan is attorney general of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Drug use and trafficking is not a victimless crime. Families have been touched in some way by the drug crisis spreading through our islands. The families dealing with addicts are also victims of the addiction and the addict's behavior.

Our office works closely with the drug court program. The court, through its own initiative, established the drug court, recognizing the need to help addicts overcome their addiction and become productive members of our community. The drug court program helps to address the growing need for rehabilitation programs and alternative sentencing. The opening of a rehab center on Saipan is a good start. We hope that more efforts are made to further drug rehabilitation in the CNMI.

Our office believes that the interest of justice demands that we do more than simply lock up an offender and throw away the key. Throwing people in jail for 25 or more years will not fix the ice epidemic in the CNMI. It will only further alienate addicts from their family, diminish their chance for recovery, and continue the vicious cycle of addiction and criminal behavior.

Our office will continue to handle drug cases based on the plea negotiation and guidelines we have established. We will continue to work closely with the drug court program and other law enforcement agencies in an effective partnership to stem the growing tide of drug-related criminal cases.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Upsetting news

We, the parents of Allan James Boyer Dela Cruz, who recently passed away, read about what happened to our son in the *Saipan Tribune* as we were halfway between a city in the U.S. mainland and Tokyo, and we were really surprised and upset.

As grieving parents of Allan James, we and our families are suffering, and we should have been notified up front about the specifics of this investigation before it was published.

Furthermore, it was reported that Bernie Dela Cruz is a former Veterans Affairs director; she wasn't. She was a Veterans Affairs "acting director" for several months, but insisted on not taking the position.

And to add another unnecessary news, the story about our son, who cannot speak or defend himself, cited a dropped-case of domestic violence.

P.S.: According to my wife, Bernie Boyer Dela Cruz, there's no such title as Veterans Affairs director; it should be Veterans Affairs executive officer, and Bernie was the Veterans Affairs acting executive officer for several months.

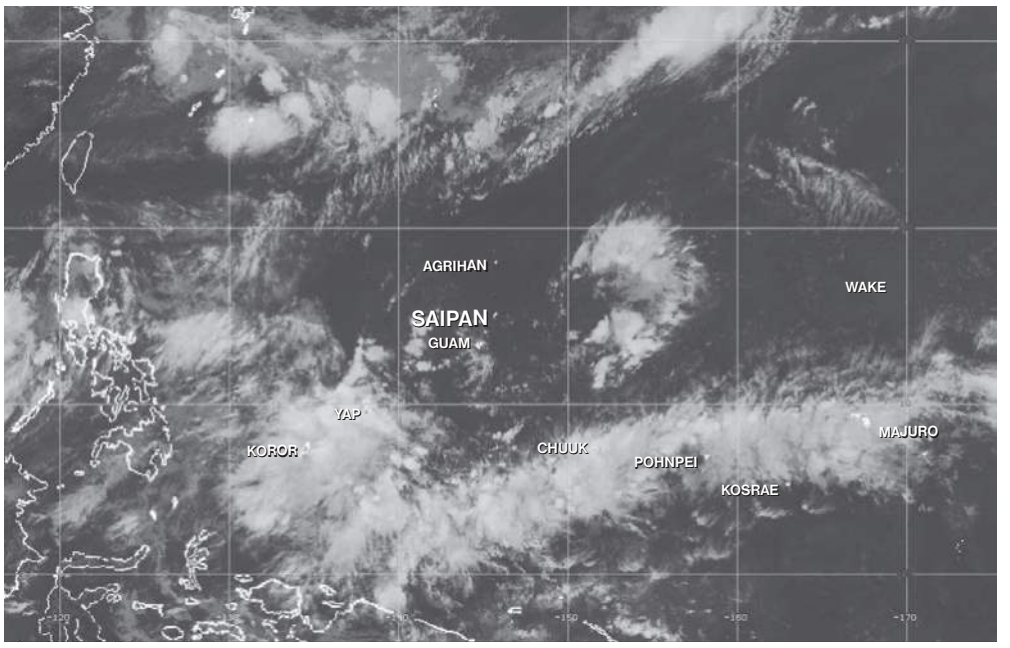
Enrique Tamaoki Dela Cruz
via email

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 11:00 AM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The upper-level low continues to move westward toward the Marianas but subsident northerly flow aloft has brought much clearing to the area and greatly inhibited shower and thunderstorm coverage. This will carry on through the day, so have reduced clouds and showers and raised temperatures for today. Showers and thunderstorms are still expected to return overnight as the upper-low gets directly overhead and to the west of the islands, bringing more favorable upper-level flow overhead.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	63° / 52°
Beijing	Sunny	73° / 48°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	91° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	88° / 76°
London	Partly Cloudy	70° / 57°
Los Angeles	Sunny	85° / 65°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Cloudy	61° / 45°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°
New York	Partly Cloudy	82° / 69°
Osaka	Rain	75° / 64°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 57°
Busan	Rain	75° / 64°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	77° / 55°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	92° / 68°
San Francisco	Sunny	82° / 60°
Seoul	Sunny	73° / 52°
Tokyo	Rain	77° / 66°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	87° / 71°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
6:24 AM	LOW TIDE	0.24
1:23 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.55
7:00 PM	LOW TIDE	1.12
11:42 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.52

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:09 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:08 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:07 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:07 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:06 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:43 am	11:22 pm	-
Thursday	12:32 pm	-	-
Friday	-	12:09 am	1:20 pm
Saturday	-	12:58 am	2:07 pm
Sunday	-	1:49 am	2:53 pm

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
ZE582	3:40am	7:00am	Daily
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
ZE581	9:00pm	2:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	3:00pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Pacific Fleet commander announces unexpected retirement

By CARL PRINE
THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

SAN DIEGO—Passed over for higher command, U.S. Navy Adm. Scott Swift on Monday announced his unexpected retirement as commander of the Pacific Fleet.

"I have been informed by the Chief of Naval Operations that I will not be his nominee to replace Adm. [Harry] Harris as the Commander, U.S. Pacific Command," Swift wrote in a prepared statement to *The San Diego Union-Tribune*.

"In keeping with tradition and in loyalty to the Navy, I have submitted my request to retire. I do so with great appreciation and gratitude for the honor of having served so many sailors and their families for what will be 40 years in January."

Traditionally, the Hawaii-based Pacific Fleet commander takes the helm of Pacific Command upon the retirement of its commander, but it's not always the case. Adm. Samuel Jones Locklear III, the PACOM commander from 2012-15, had led naval forces in Europe and Africa.

The Pacific Fleet is the jewel of Navy commands, boasting 60 percent of the service's warships. It includes the San Diego-based 3rd Fleet and the 7th Fleet, headquartered in Japan, plus all Navy aircraft and submarines in the Pacific Rim and shore commands in Korea and the Marianas.

Swift, 60, indicated that he tendered his retirement now out of "an abundance of respect and admiration" for Adm. John M. Richardson, the Chief of Naval Operations.

His retirement also aids Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, the Chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis as they "face the challenge of selecting someone to step into the leadership role Adm. Harris has filled with such distinction over the last three years," he wrote.

"I have not requested a retirement date as there is much work to be done here in the Pacific area of responsibility," Swift wrote. "Whether my timeline of remaining service is six weeks or six months, I will fill that time with the energy of an ensign and the wisdom drawn from the 140,000 sailors who report for duty every morning in the Pacific Fleet."

Pacific Fleet commander Adm. Scott H. Swift speaks about how they're going to solve collision problems involving warships and aircraft in the Pacific on Sept. 14, 2017 in Coronado, Calif. On Monday Swift announced his unexpected retirement as commander of the Pacific Fleet.
ALEJANDRO TAMAYO/THE SAN DIEGO UNION TRIBUNE

His announcement came a week after news broke that Vice Adm. Tom Rowden, the Navy's head of surface forces, had requested an early retirement from Richardson.

Rowden told the *Union-Tribune* that his departure would give Richardson a head start to pick a new surface-warfare boss to work alongside Swift to continue safety and seamanship reforms they launched in response to a spate of warship collisions in the Western Pacific.

On Jan. 31, the cruiser Antietam ran aground on a Japanese shoal. Less than five months later, the cruiser Lake Champlain bashed a South Korean fishing boat. Then came the June 17 destroyer Fitzgerald crash with a merchant vessel and, on Aug. 21, the collision of an oil tanker with the destroyer John S. McCain east of Singapore.

The Fitzgerald and McCain crashes claimed the lives of 17 sailors and tolled hundreds of millions of dollars in damages to the guided-missile destroyers.

Swift and Rowden had proposed a series of reforms to revamp a Navy culture that put the tempo of operations ahead of proper maintenance and training of sailors plying the busy sea lanes of Asian waters.

Called the "Naval Surface Group Western Pacific," the initiative will be run by a staff of 30 to 50 experts in maritime engineering, safety, maintenance, seamanship and training.

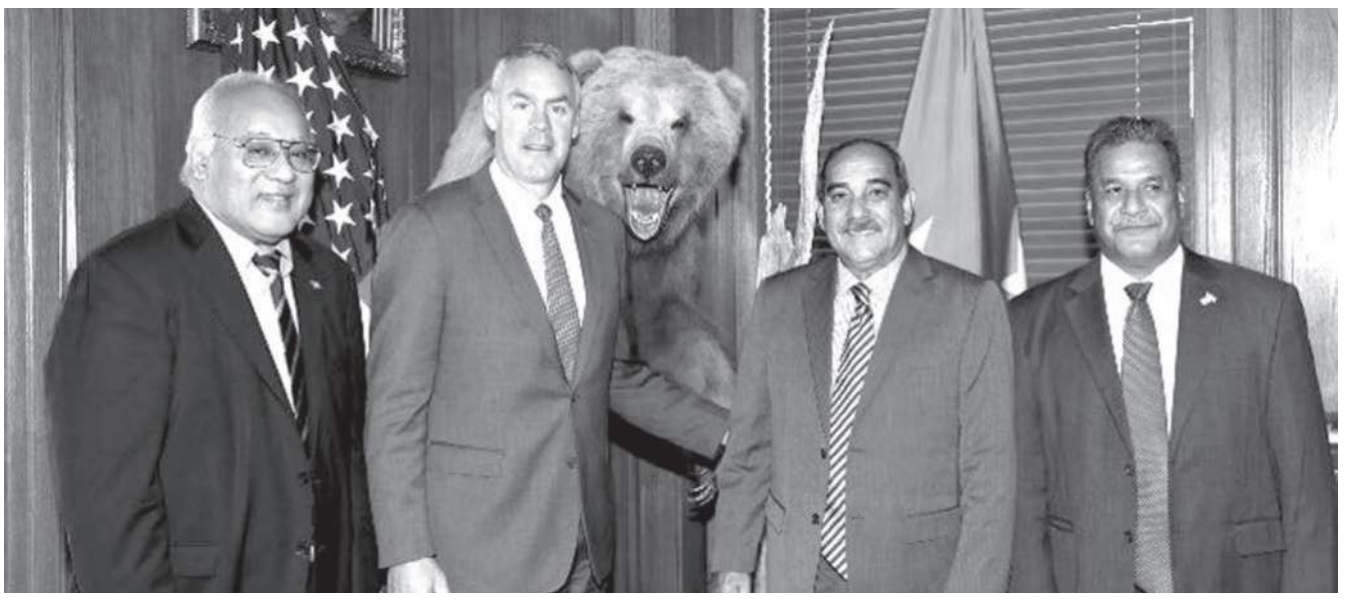
Seizing on the urgency of the situation, the program's director will report directly to Swift, while he remains at his post. It's modeled on similar past and present detachments used by the Navy in the Philippines, Hawaii and Bahrain.

On May 27, 2015, Swift was promoted to admiral and became the 35th commander since the Pacific Fleet was established in 1941. He previously had been assigned to the Pentagon as the director of Navy Staff.

A San Diegan who graduated from San Diego State University, Swift received his Navy commission in 1979.

A career aviator, he rose to command the "Warhawks" of Strike Fighter Attack Squadron 97, Carrier Air Wing 14, Carrier Strike Group 9, the 7th Fleet and Naval Air Forces.

A recipient of the Air Medal with a Combat V for valor designation, Swift deployed to battle against Iran in 1988 and later for Iraq and Afghanistan.



COURTESY CALL
Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, second from left, meets with Federated States of Micronesia President Peter Christian, second from right, who made a courtesy visit at the U.S. Department of the Interior. Christian was accompanied by FSM Foreign Minister Lorin Robert, FSM Ambassador to the U.S. Akillino Susaia, and attorney Sam Witten. Zinke and Christian discussed a variety of topics focusing on the importance of the close and mutually beneficial relationship between the United States and FSM. The discussion touched on Compact funding procedures, security in the Western Pacific, and financial and economic aspects of the relationship and implications for the next 6 years and into the future. Christian also challenged Zinke to a friendly fishing competition.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-ZB-210

SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 19, 2017 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

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COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF AND TO WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ THERESE T. OGUMORO
ZONING ADMINSTRATOR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-OGM-001

SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 19, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A SPORT UTILITY VEHICLE WITH TOWING CAPACITY FOR THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT & STATE CLEARINGHOUSE"

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/S/ EPHIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP17-CHCC/FACILITY-28

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: October 09, 2017 TIME: 10:00AM

"SOLAR PV SYSTEMS PROJECT, FACILITY COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING
THERE WILL BE A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2017 AT 9:00A.M CHST. AT THE MAIN FACILITY OFFICE. ALL INTERESTED VENDORS MUST ATTEND.

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED–UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP17-CHCC/PHARMACY-29

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 04, 2017 TIME: 1:00PM

"AREA 10 REFURBISHMENT, PHARMACY, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

MANDATORY PRE-SUBMISSION ON-SITE ASSESSMENT
A MANDATORY ON-SITE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT AREA WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2017 AT 8:30AM. ALL INTERESTED VENDORS MUST ATTEND TO VIEW THE SPACE AND MAY TAKE MEASUREMENTS AND ASK ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY BID, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP17-CHCC/PHARMACY-30

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 04, 2017 TIME: 1:00PM

"OUT-PATIENT FURNISHING, PHARMACY, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

MANDATORY PRE-SUBMISSION ON-SITE ASSESSMENT
A MANDATORY ON-SITE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT AREA WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2017 AT 10:00AM. ALL INTERESTED VENDORS MUST ATTEND TO VIEW THE SPACE AND MAY TAKE MEASUREMENTS AND ASK ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

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/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

National Car Seat Check and Family Fun Day

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

First responders, personnel from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, and the Department of Public Safety pose for a picture during the National Car Seat Check and Family Fun Day last Saturday at the Susupe Civic Center.

DONNA LIWAG

Personnel of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau pose for a photo at their station during the National Car Seat Check and Family Fun Day last Saturday at the Susupe Civic Center.

DONNA LIWAG

Commonwealth first responders conduct car seat checks during the National Car Seat Check and Family Fun Day last Saturday at the Susupe Civic Center.

DONNA LIWAG

Volunteers prepare handicraft activities at the National Car Seat Check and Family Fun Day last Saturday at the Susupe Civic Center.

DONNA LIWAG

Volunteers assist the children in handicraft activities at the National Car Seat Check and Family Fun Day last Saturday at the Susupe Civic Center.

DONNA LIWAG

The Joeten Kiyu Public Library offers educational activities for the children at the National Car Seat Check and Family Fun Day last Saturday at the Susupe Civic Center

DONNA LIWAG

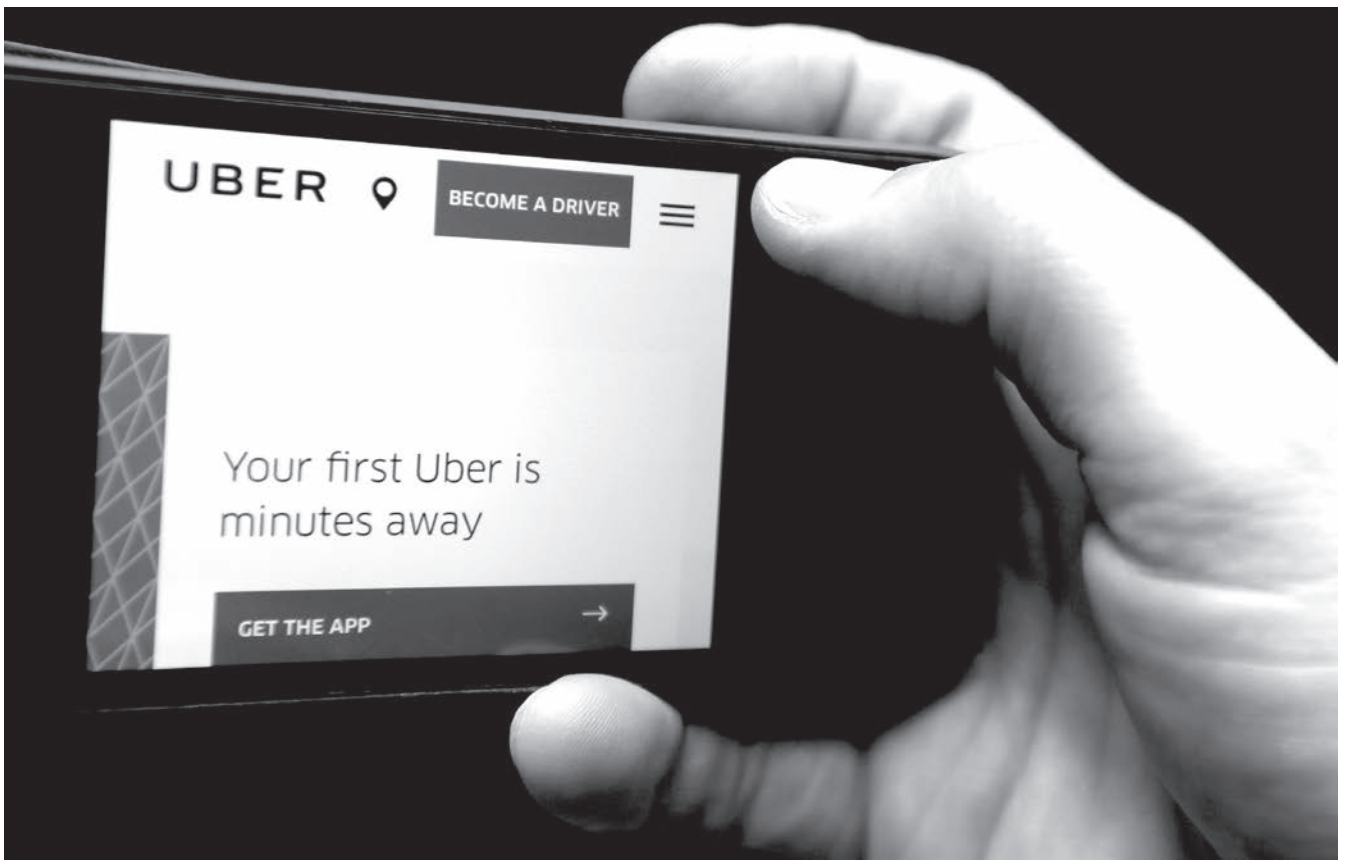
First responder Nipi Tenorio Laniyo poses for a photo with one of the children present during the National Car Seat Check and Family Fun Day last Saturday at the Susupe Civic Center.

DONNA LIWAG

Staff of the Public School System's Early Head Start Program encourages children to get active during the National Car Seat Check and Family Fun Day last Saturday at the Susupe Civic Center.

Business

Uber wields new weapon in fight with London: diplomacy



The Uber website is displayed on a phone in London, Friday, Sept. 22, 2017. AP

LONDON (AP)—In past skirmishes with local regulators, Uber's playbook under co-founder and now-ousted CEO Travis Kalanick was simple: fight.

Now, as brand-new CEO Dara Khosrowshahi deals with a stunning rebuke from London, the playbook gets another page: fight, but offer some diplomatic humility.

On Friday, just hours after Greater London's transport authorities decided not to renew Uber's operating license, citing a lack of corporate responsibility, Uber wound up for its first punch. Almost reflexively, it followed the familiar tactic of recruiting its mass rider base for help, starting an online petition drive to pressure regulators that now has more than 770,000 signatures. It also promised appeals and defiantly accused regulators of caving in to Taxi interests.

Then, Khosrowshahi took to Twitter. "Dear London: We r far from perfect," he wrote. "Pls work w/us to make things right."

It remains to be seen which strategy will work best, and Uber also runs the risk of antagonizing London officials by sending the mixed messages. But deviating from Kalanick's approach is exactly the right tactic for Khosrowshahi, says Jan Dawson, chief analyst for Jackdaw Research in California. Conciliation, he says, likely will require concessions, but also will bring peace in a huge market with 40,000 drivers and 3.5 million riders — over 5 percent of Uber's ridership base of 65 million globally.

"The fact that Uber is so mature and broadly used in London means it's very unlikely that it will be permanently banned there — the political fallout would just be too great," Dawson said.

As Uber grew at lightning speed during the past seven years, it often entered U.S. cities without permits. When taxicabs complained, Uber defiantly kept hauling people. Usually Kalanick's tactics prevailed.

"We're totally legal, like totally legal, and the government is telling us to shut down," he said in a 2014 Vanity Fair article. "And you can either do what they say or you can fight for what you believe." He called the strategy "principled confrontation."

It worked in Chicago as recently as last year, where Alderman Anthony Beale, who fought unsuccessfully to more tightly regulate Uber, said the company used Uber riders and political connections to win — at least so far — a fight over fingerprint background checks of drivers.

"You're talking about an 800-pound gorilla," says Beale. "This company needs to be regulated. They need to be regulated heavily because they're out of control."

On Monday, Khosrowshahi, who was hired away last month from travel booking giant Expedia, apologized publicly for mistakes of the past. Uber "got things wrong" during its global expansion and is willing to change to stay in business in London, he said in an open letter published by the Evening Standard newspaper. "We will look to be long-term partners with the cities we serve; and we will run our business with humility, integrity and passion."

Mayor Sadiq Khan welcomed the apology and was pleased to see the company acknowledge issues.

Transport for London, the regulatory body, said last week it wouldn't renew Uber's license when it expires Sept. 30. Uber can continue operating while it pursues an appeal.

"Even though there is a legal process in place, I have asked TfL to make themselves available to meet with him," Khan said of Khosrowshahi.

The row leaves an opening for Lyft, Uber's much-smaller rival that has designs on growing outside of the U.S. Lyft has talked with TfL, but the company won't comment on expansion plans.

Uber has struggled with a series of scandals this year, ranging from accusations of sexism to suggestions that it used software to hide information from regulators.

Transport for London said it wouldn't renew Uber's license because the company isn't "fit and proper" to operate in the city. Uber didn't report serious criminal offenses, including a sexual assault, to London police, authorities said, and failed to conduct proper driver background checks. The regulator also cited Uber's use of a phony app to deceive regulators in the U.S.

Some Uber supporters say the critique is a smokescreen for a politically motivated decision to appease London taxi drivers, not protect public safety. Uber has long been a target of cab drivers who complain that its drivers don't have to comply with the same licensing standards, giving the ride-hailing service an advantage.

Feds rush aid to Puerto Rico, while Trump tweets about debt

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. ramped up its response Monday to the humanitarian crisis in Puerto Rico, even as President Donald Trump brought up the island's struggles before Hurricane Maria struck—including "billions of dollars" in debt to "Wall Street and the banks which, sadly, must be dealt with."

The Trump administration has tried to blunt criticism that its response to Hurricane Maria has fallen short of its efforts in Texas and Florida after the recent hurricanes there.

Five days after the Category 4 storm slammed into Puerto Rico, many of the more than 3.4 million U.S. citizens in the territory were still without adequate food, water and fuel. Flights off the island were infrequent, communications were spotty and roads were clogged with debris. Officials said electrical power may not be fully restored for more than a month.

Trump himself pointed out some differences between the two states and the island in a series of tweets Monday night.

"Texas & Florida are doing great but Puerto Rico, which was already suffering from broken infrastructure & massive debt, is in deep trouble."

Trump also noted that the island's electrical grid was already "in terrible shape." Still, he promised, "Food, water and medical are top priorities - and doing well."

In Washington, officials said no armada of U.S. Navy ships was headed to the island because supplies could be carried in more efficiently by plane. The Trump administration ruled out temporarily setting aside federal restrictions on foreign ships' transportation of cargo, saying it wasn't needed. The government had waived those rules in Florida and Texas until last week.

Though the administration said the focus on aid was strong, when two Cabinet secretaries spoke at a conference on another subject — including Energy Secretary Rick Perry, whose agency is helping restore the island's power — neither made any mention of Puerto Rico or Hurricane Maria.

Democratic lawmakers with large Puerto Rican constituencies back on the mainland characterized the response so far as too little and too slow. The confirmed toll from Maria jumped to at least 49 on Monday, including 16 dead in Puerto Rico.

"Puerto Ricans are Americans," said Rep. Nydia Velazquez, D-N.Y., who traveled to Puerto Rico over the weekend to assess the damage. "We cannot and will not turn our backs on them."

GOP, White House eye deep cuts to corporate tax rate

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House and congressional Republicans are finalizing a tax plan that would slash the corporate rate while likely reducing the levy for the wealthiest Americans, with President Donald Trump ready to roll out the policy proposal at midweek.

The grand plan to rewrite the nation's tax code would be the first major overhaul in three decades, delivering on a Trump campaign pledge and providing a sorely needed legislative achievement. It also is expected to eliminate or reduce some tax breaks and deductions.

The plan would likely cut the tax rate for the wealthiest Americans, now at 39.6 percent, to 35 percent, people familiar with the plan said Monday. They spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of a formal announcement.

In addition, the top tax for corporations would be reduced to around 20 percent from the current 35 percent, they said. It will seek to simply the tax system by reducing the number of income tax brackets from seven to three.

Trump has said he wanted to see a 15 percent rate for corporations, but House Speaker Paul Ryan has called that impractically low and risking adding to the soaring $20 trillion national debt.

The White House and congressional leaders planned an all-out blitz later this week to build support for the plan, which is now Trump's top legislative priority as the GOP has struggled to repeal and replace Democrat Barack Obama's health care law. The political stakes are high for Trump, who has promised to bring 3 percent economic growth and expanded jobs through tax cuts.

Vice President Mike Pence was expected to hold events in Michigan and Wisconsin on Thursday to promote the tax plan with business leaders.

The plan being assembled lays out "pro-growth tax reform," Rep. Kevin Brady, R-Texas, head of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, told reporters on Capitol Hill. It will fix a tax code that is "so complex, so costly and so unfair," he said.

Brady predicted the plan "will deliver the lowest tax rates on businesses in modern history."

Details will be filled in later by the committee, and legislation will be put forward after the House and Senate enact their budget frameworks, Brady said.

Republicans are divided over the potential elimination of some of the deductions, underscoring the difficulty of overhauling the tax code even with GOP control of the House and Senate.

House Republicans planned to hold a Wednesday retreat at Fort McNair, Maryland, a few miles from the White House, to discuss the proposal, with briefings led by Brady and Rep. Peter Roskam, R-Ill.

Nation

Trump's new travel ban: Third time the charm?

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration spent months hashing out new travel restrictions on more than a half-dozen countries, determined to avoid the chaos that accompanied President Donald Trump's first travel ban. But critics say it's a mystery why some countries are included and they believe Venezuela and North Korea were added to provide legal and political cover for what they say remains a "Muslim ban."

The new restrictions covering citizens of Chad, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen — and some Venezuelan government officials and their families — are to go into effect Oct. 18.

As for the previous version, which expired on Sunday, the Supreme Court on Monday announced it would cancel arguments scheduled for next month to give both sides time to consider the implications of the new one. They have until Oct. 5 to weigh in.

Trump's efforts to restrict entry into the U.S. have been the subject of lawsuits almost since the moment he announced the first travel ban in January, and the latest version is sure to attract new legal challenges — though experts are divided on how they might fare.

Avideh Moussavian, senior policy attorney at the National Immigration Law Center, said she saw little difference between the earlier bans and the new policy, despite the addition of two non-Muslim countries.

"What remains the same is the discriminatory core of these bans which were always designed to exclude Muslims from the United States," Moussavian said.

AP

In this Sunday, Sept. 24, 2017, file photo, President Donald Trump speaks with reporters before boarding Air Force One at Morristown Municipal airport, in Morristown, N.J.

But Stephen Yale-Loehr, an immigration expert at Cornell University, said the latest version is narrower and better explained, including about how the government decided which countries to target.

"The third time may be the charm for President Trump's immigration travel ban," Yale-Loehr said.

Administration officials have stressed the latest version is the result of a lengthy process, and based on an objective assessment of each country's security situation and willingness to share information with the U.S.

The restrictions are based on new baseline factors such as whether countries issue electronic passports with biometric information to prevent fraud and report information about potential terror threats. That baseline was shared with countries across the globe, and they were given 50 days to comply.

Those that failed to satisfy the "objective process of measuring whether countries met the baseline" are now subject to new restrictions.

The countries that ultimately were included on the list fall into three basic categories, officials said.

■ Some, like Iran and Syria, pose legitimate national security threats to the U.S. and refuse to cooperate with U.S. consular investigations.

■ Another category includes countries like Yemen and Libya, where local authorities have sought to be as cooperative as possible but lack full control over their territory and the basic ability to provide the information the U.S. wants. In those cases, officials said, the U.S. tried to stress that inclusion on the list wasn't an indictment of those nations' commitment to fighting terrorism.

■ The final category includes countries like North Korea and Venezuela whose citizens don't necessarily pose a major threat to the U.S. but where the administration wanted to send a message that the government's broader actions are unacceptable.

Critics said the inclusion of some countries appeared to be largely symbolic and intended to combat perceptions that the ban is targeting Muslims.

The new visa sanctions on Venezuela, for instance, apply only to officials from five government security agencies and their immediate families. Still, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro labeled the move a form of "political and psychological terrorism."

Travel ban list expands

The rules set to go into effect Oct. 18 will impose strict new restrictions on the citizens of Chad, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria and Yemen and certain officials from Venezuela and their families.

• The restrictions are targeted at countries that the Department of Homeland Security says fail to share sufficient information with the U.S. or haven't taken necessary security precautions.

Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, TNS

ACROSS THE NATION

Court: Texas can enforce more of 'sanctuary cities' law

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Texas for now can require law enforcement to honor federal immigration requests to detain people in local jails for possible deportation under a new "sanctuary cities" law supported by the Trump administration, a federal appeals court ruled on Monday. The decision prompted one notable critic of the immigration crackdown, Travis County Sheriff Sally Hernandez, to announce that her Austin jails would now honor all detainers from U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement. The elected Democrat had become a polarizing figure after announcing on the day of President Donald Trump's inauguration that the county's jails would no longer comply with all such requests. But the unanimous ruling of a three-judge panel in New Orleans wasn't seen as so clear-cut by others. Some lawyers said they believed the decision did not demand total compliance with federal agents, while other local officials struggled to interpret the ramifications. Republican Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton hailed it as a clear victory allowing the state to "enforce the core" of the law known at Senate Bill 4.The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling negates some of U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia's Aug. 31 halt to much of the law one day before it was to go into effect. The decision lets Texas enforce the detainer provision, pending fuller oral arguments in November.

'Rock bottom': Weiner gets 21 months in prison for sexting

NEW YORK (AP)—Anthony Weiner's sexting compulsion cost him his seat in Congress, his shot at becoming New York mayor and his marriage, and may have even denied Hillary Clinton the presidency. On Monday, it cost him his freedom. Weiner, 53, dropped his head into his hands and wept as a federal judge sentenced him to 21 months behind bars for illicit online contact with a 15-year-old girl, his tears flowing long after the gavel came down on a case he called his "rock bottom." As his parents but not his wife looked on in the courtroom, the New York Democrat was given until Nov. 6 to report to prison for misconduct that included getting the North Carolina high school student to strip and touch herself on Skype and Snapchat.

In handing down the sentence, U.S. District Judge Denise Cote cited a need in such a highly publicized case to "make a statement that can protect other minors." The judge said Weiner's habit of exchanging sexually explicit messages and pictures with young women shows a "very strong compulsion"—so strong that "despite two very public disclosures and the destruction of his career on two occasions, he continued with the activity." Calling himself "a very sick man for a very long time," Weiner tearfully apologized to the teen and sought to assure the judge he had finally learned his lesson. He has been undergoing therapy.

Police: Tennessee church shooting suspect sent suicidal text

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A man charged in a mass shooting at a Tennessee church expressed suicidal thoughts in June and had a volatile relationship with a woman that twice involved law enforcement this year, according to police records.

Emanuel Kidega Samson, 25, is charged with the fatal shooting of one woman and is expected to face several more charges following the rampage that left six others wounded on Sunday.

Samson wore a tactical vest and fired 12 rounds from a .40-caliber handgun, reloading it once, Nashville police spokesman Don Aaron said. He was also carrying a loaded 9 mm handgun and had a .22-caliber pistol and military-style AR-15 rifle in the car he had left running outside the church, police said.

Police did not find any AR-15 ammunition on the scene, Aaron said.

According to an affidavit, Samson told Nashville police after his arrest that he arrived at the church armed and fired upon the building.

Court documents do not indicate whether Samson has an attorney. His first court hearing is Wednesday.

Police in Murfreesboro, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) southeast of the church, responded to a call from Samson's father, who had reported that his son had texted him June 27 to say: "Your phone is off, I have a gun to my head, have a nice f------ life."

Samson's phone was traced to a Nashville business and officers checked on Samson's welfare. They described his demeanor as "professional" and said they had "no reason to believe" that he would harm himself, Aaron said.

In January, Murfreesboro officers responded to two domestic disturbances between Emanuel Samson and a woman who accused him of cheating on her. Samson cut his hand when he punched a small TV on her desk, according to statements to police.

In March, police were dispatched to Samson's home, where he said the woman was trying force entry despite his attempts to break off contact with her. He told officers he was afraid of her because she had struck him in the past.

No charges were filed in either incident.

On Sunday, toward the end of services at the Burnette Chapel Church of Christ, Minerva Rosa said church members were talking about the success of their yard sale the previous day when they heard gunshots outside the building. The church pastor, David Spann, 60, then shouted for everyone to run, according to a witness.

The gunman entered the church from the back after fatally shooting a woman outside, police said. He then walked through the church silently, shooting six more people before Robert Engle, a 22-year-old usher, tackled him.

Asia

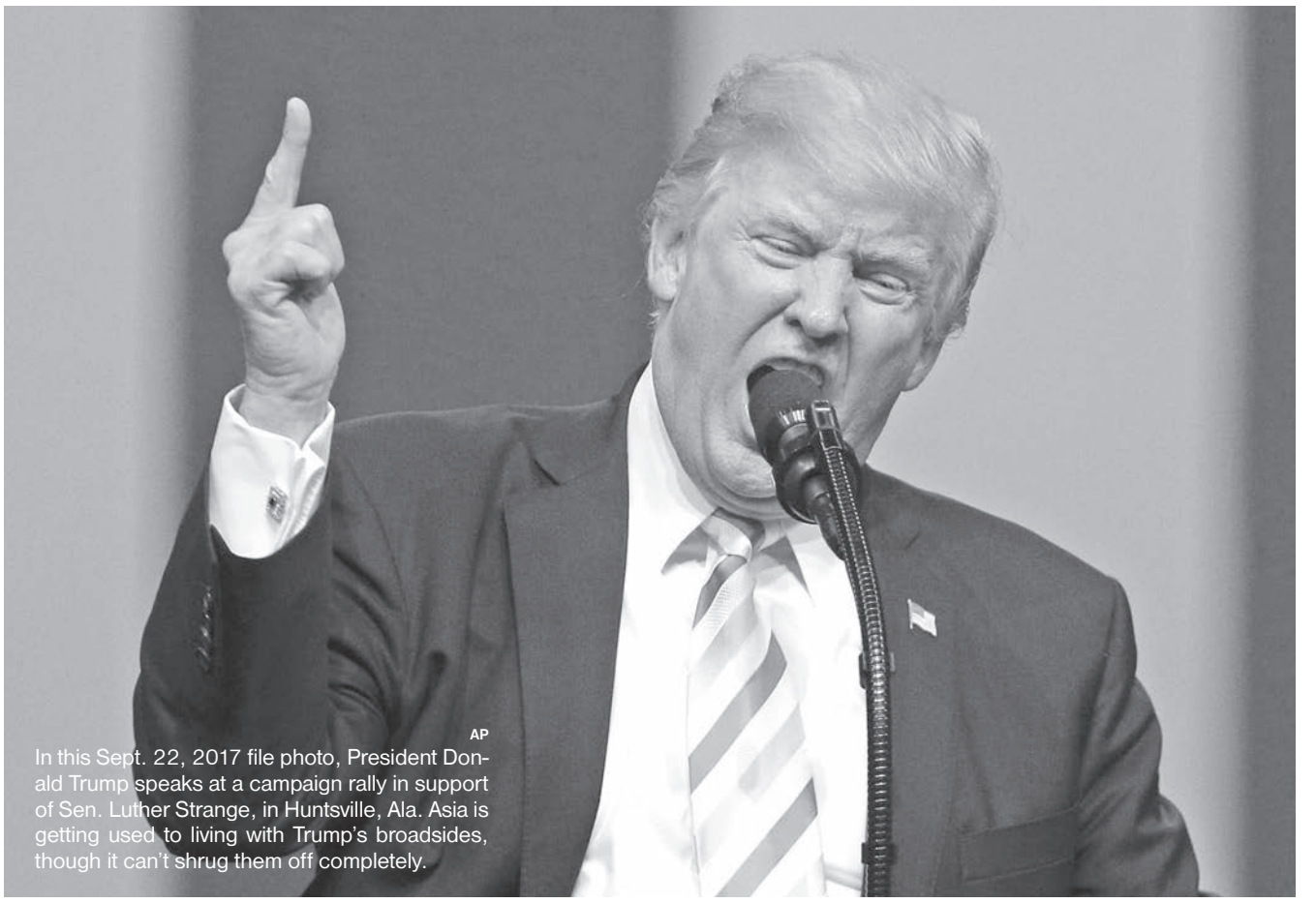
US says it's not pushing for regime change in North Korea

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration said Monday it's not seeking to overthrow North Korea's government after the president tweeted that Kim Jong Un "won't be around much longer" and called Pyongyang's assertion absurd that Donald Trump's comment amounted to a declaration of war.

Still, the fiery rhetoric carrying over from a week of threatening exchanges at the U.N. General Assembly only further fueled fears the adversaries might stumble back into open military conflict. The Korean War ended seven decades ago without a formal peace treaty and tensions related to the North's nuclear advances have escalated for months.

At the U.N. on Monday, the North's top diplomat, Ri Yong Ho, argued that Trump's Twitter blast gives it the right to shoot down U.S. warplanes, like the strategic bombers Washington flew close to the border between the two Koreas over the weekend.

Trump's Saturday tweet said: "Just heard Foreign Minister of North Korea speak at U.N. If he echoes thoughts of Little Rocket Man, they won't be around much longer!" Trump also used "rocket man" for Kim in his speech to the U.N. General Assembly last week.



AP

In this Sept. 22, 2017 file photo, President Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally in support of Sen. Luther Strange, in Huntsville, Ala. Asia is getting used to living with Trump's broadsides, though it can't shrug them off completely.

While the comments may be read as an implicit threat to eliminate Kim, administration officials said Washington hadn't changed its policy and the U.S. isn't seeking regime change in Pyongyang.

"We have not declared war on North Korea. Frankly the suggestion of that is absurd," White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters. "It's never appropriate for a country to shoot down another country's aircraft when it's over international waters."

"Our goal is still the same. We continue to seek the peaceful denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," she said.

Cabinet officials, particularly Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, have insisted the U.S.-led campaign diplomatic and economic pressure on North Korea is focused on eliminating the pariah state's nuclear weapons program, not its totalitarian government.

But the more Trump muddies the picture, the tougher it may become to maintain cooperation with China and Russia, which seek a diplomatic solution to the nuclear crisis and not a new U.S. ally suddenly popping up on their borders. It also risks snuffing out hopes of persuading Kim's government to enter a negotiation when its survival isn't assured.

Military maneuvers are adding to tensions along the two Koreas' heavily militarized border. In a show of might to North Korea, U.S. bombers and fighter escorts flew Saturday to the farthest point north of the border between North and South Korea by any such American aircraft this century.

Pentagon spokesman Army Col. Rob Manning said Monday the operation was conducted in international airspace and legally permissible. The U.S. has a "deep arsenal of military options to provide the president so that he can then decide how he wants to deal with North Korea," he said.

"We are prepared to defend ourselves and our allies from an attack and are prepared to use the full range of capabilities at our disposal against the threat from North Korea," Manning told reporters.

North Korea's Ri said Monday that the world doesn't want "the war of words" between his country and the U.S. to "turn into real action." He said Trump's claim that "our leadership wouldn't be around much longer" exacerbates the situation.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippines accepts Malaysia's rejection of ASEAN statement

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines said Monday it respects Malaysia's decision to dissociate itself from a statement on Myanmar's Rakhine state issued by Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano as chairman of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Malaysia's Foreign Minister Anifah Aman said Sunday that Malaysia was dissociating itself from the statement because it misrepresents the reality of the situation, omits reference to Rohingya Muslims as one of the affected communities and was not based on consensus — a rare public spat in ASEAN, which prides itself in its unity and decisions by consensus. Manila's Department of Foreign Affairs said the Philippines, as ASEAN chair, issued the statement taking into account sentiments of others in the 10-member regional bloc and after extensive consultation with Malaysia.

Japan's Fukushima cleanup plan delays spent fuel removal

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's government has approved a revision to its 30-to-40-year plan to decommission the Fukushima nuclear plant, delaying by two more years the removal of radioactive fuel rods in two of the three reactors damaged in the 2011 disaster. The cleanup plan so far has succeeding in decreasing the amount of contaminated water and using remote-controlled robots to obtain a limited view of melted fuel debris. Still, the exact location and condition of the melted fuel in the reactors are largely unknown. The revisions approved Tuesday still plan for the melted fuel to be removed starting in 2021, citing recent findings on more efficient methods. But the plan lacks details about the duration of fuel removal and final waste storage, raising doubts if the cleanup can be completed within 40 years.

Japan's Abe says he will call snap election for parliament

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced Monday he will call an early election for parliament's more powerful lower house for next month. Abe said at a news conference that he will dissolve the 475-seat chamber on Thursday when it convenes after a three-month summer recess. The election is to be held Oct. 22. Support ratings for Abe's government have started to rebound after attacks on him over cronyism scandals faded during the recess. Also, opposition parties are regrouping and unprepared for an election. Opposition lawmakers have said there is no need to hold an election now. Abe said he was seeking a mandate for his plans to use new tax revenues for education and elderly care, and for his defense policy toward North Korea's escalating missile and nuclear threat, saying the situation is tantamount to a national crisis. "I will tackle the national crisis with my strong leadership," Abe said. "I expect opposition criticism is going to focus on (the scandals), and it's going to be a very difficult election," Abe said. He said he will step down as prime minister if his Liberal Democratic Party fails to win a majority, or at least 233 seats, to stay in power.

Evacuations from Bali volcano swell to more than 57,000

BALI, Indonesia (AP)—More than 57,000 people have fled the surrounds of Mount Agung volcano on the Indonesian tourist island of Bali, fearing an imminent eruption, officials said Tuesday.

An increasing frequency of tremors from the volcano indicates magma is continuing to move toward the surface and an eruption is possible, said National Disaster Mitigation agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho. He said more than 560 volcanic earthquakes were recorded on Monday, most of them shallow.

The alert status of Agung was raised to the highest level on Friday following a dramatic increase in seismic activity. It last erupted in 1963, killing about 1,100 people.

Another disaster agency official, Waskita Sutadewa in Bali, said people have scattered to all corners of the island and some have crossed to the neighboring island of Lombok. The evacuees are living in temporary shelters, sports centers, village halls and with relatives or friends. Some return to the danger zone, which extends up to 12 kilometers (7.5 miles) from the crater, during the day to tend to livestock.

Officials have said there's no immediate threat to tourists, but some are already cutting short their stays in Bali. A significant eruption would force the closure of Bali's international airport, stranding thousands.

"It's obviously an awful thing. We want to get out of here just to be safe," said an Australian woman at Bali's airport who identified herself as Miriam.

Nugroho said hundreds of thousands of face masks will be distributed in Bali as part of government humanitarian assistance that includes thousands of mattresses and blankets.

"The chances of an eruption are very high, but we cannot be sure when it will erupt," he said at a news conference in the capital, Jakarta.

He said not everyone had left the danger zone because they didn't want to leave livestock, were underestimating the risk or because of religious reasons.

"Officers continue to sweep the area and are appealing for people to evacuate," he said.

In 1963, Agung hurled ash as high as 20 kilometers (12 miles) and remained active about a year. Lava traveled 7.5 kilometers (4.7 miles) and ash reached Jakarta, about 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) away.

The mountain, 72 kilometers (45 miles) to the northeast of the tourist hotspot of Kuta, is among more than 120 active volcanoes in Indonesia.

The country of thousands of islands is prone to seismic upheaval due to its location on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines encircling the Pacific Basin.

World

US-backed forces say Russia attacked them in eastern Syria

AP
This photo provided Monday, Sept 25, 2017, by the Ghouta Media Center, a Syrian activist media group, shows smoke and debris rising after Syrian government shelling of the rebel-held Jobar neighborhood of Damascus, Syria.

BEIRUT (AP)—U.S.-backed forces in eastern Syria say Russia bombed their positions on Monday in a major natural gas field they recently captured from Islamic State militants.

The Syrian Democratic Forces said a Russian airstrike killed one of its fighters and wounded two others in the Conoco gas field, in Deir el-Zour province. Russia's Defense Ministry denied the report.

SDF fighters captured Conoco field, Syria's largest, from IS militants on Saturday.

The SDF issued a statement later Monday saying that its forces retaliated by shelling the source of fire and positions of "hostile forces."

It was not the first time the SDF has accused Russia of targeting its forces in oil and gas-rich Deir el-Zour, where Russian backed Syrian troops are waging a separate offensive against the extremists. The two sides are racing to defeat the militants and snap up oil and gas fields, fueling fears of conflict between the two groups and their superpower sponsors.

Both the U.S. and Russia have embedded special forces with their respective partners and are supporting their advances with aggressive air strikes.

The Pentagon accused Russian jets of attacking the SDF last week. Russia in turn said its forces were targeted twice from SDF-held territory.

SDF fighters have been making their way down the east bank of the Euphrates River in Deir el-Zour, while Syrian troops are mainly operating on the western bank. Last week, Syrian troops along with allied Shiite militias from across the region crossed into parts of the east bank, where they ran into fierce resistance from IS militants entrenched there.

"They are losing fighters wholesale," said Germany-based Deir el-Zour native Omar Abu Layla, who is monitoring the battles through local contacts.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says 72 pro-government fighters have been killed in battle with the jihadists since crossing the Euphrates last week. At least seven Russian soldiers have been killed, and Russia's Defense Ministry acknowledged that one of its generals was killed in the area on Sunday.

Syria's largest oil field, the al-Omar, is located on the eastern side of the river.

Elsewhere in Syria, Russian and government warplanes stepped up their airstrikes against rebels as well as al-Qaida-linked insurgents in different areas, straining a patchwork of cease-fires and "de-escalation" agreements that had brought relative calm in recent weeks.

Activists and monitoring groups reported airstrikes in Aleppo, Idlib and Hama provinces, as well as clashes between rebels and pro-government forces in northern Syria and on the outskirts of the capital, Damascus.

The Observatory said the airstrikes killed 37 in the town of Jisr al-Shughour and nearby areas in Idlib province. The Syrian Civil Defense, also known as the White Helmets, which is active in opposition-held areas, said 15 people were killed and 30 wounded in Jisr al-Shughour alone, adding that other people were killed in other areas in the province.

Two people were killed Monday in shelling on President Bashar Assad's ancestral village of Qardaha, state media reported. Syria's state broadcaster said the village has been shelled by "terrorists" for two days straight. It says two people were wounded Sunday.

Qardaha is located in the coastal mountains of northwest Syria. Assad's father, the late president Hafez Assad, was born in Qardaha. He was buried there in 2000.

The village has been largely spared from Syria's civil war, which grew out of demonstrations in 2011 against the Assad family's four-decade rule.

The Observatory also reported the shelling, saying two civilians were killed.

Mexico still tallying the economic cost of big earthquake

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexican government officials are still tallying up the economic losses of the magnitude 7.1 earthquake that caused widespread damage in the capital, but for the manager of a downtown restaurant it is already all too clear.

Sitting in the entrance of his Guapa Papa restaurant Monday surrounded in caution tape, Antonio Luna said: "This is a bust. It's already closed due to structural damage to the building."

He had to let go the three dozen employees at the 1950s-themed restaurant and is just trying to salvage whatever furniture and equipment wasn't damaged.

"In the end the company let everyone go because it couldn't continue having expenses," Luna said.

Moody's Investors Service said in a report Monday that the Sept. 19 earthquake that has killed at least 326 people in the capital and nearby states "has the potential to be one of Mexico's costliest natural catastrophes."

Alfredo Coutino, Latin America director for Moody's Analytics, said they were still collecting data on losses, but a preliminary estimate was that the earthquake could knock between 0.1 percent and 0.3 percent off Mexico's gross domestic product in the third and fourth quarters.

For the full year, the impact on gross domestic product should be about 0.1 percent. "The impact on the year's growth will be small, particularly considering that the reconstruction work will compensate for some of the total loss in activity during the fourth quarter," Coutino said.

Money is expected to pour into the economy as Mexico City and the federal government tap their disaster funds. As of June, the city's disaster fund stood at 9.4 billion pesos (more than $500 million), making it slightly larger than the national fund, according to a Moody's Investors Services report.

Of course, the national fund also has to deal with recovery from the even stronger Sept. 7 quake that has been blamed for nearly 100 deaths, mostly in the southern states of Oaxaca and Chiapas.

There will be months of work ahead from demolition to repairs and reconstruction.

Mexico City Mayor Miguel Angel Mancera said that 360 "red level" buildings would either have to be demolished or receive major structural reinforcement. An additional 1,136 are reparable, and 8,030 buildings inspected so far were found to be habitable.

At least 38 buildings, including apartments and office buildings, collapsed during the earthquake.

Mexico's education ministry also has 1.8 million pesos to spend on school repairs. In Mexico City alone, only 676 of the city's 9,000 schools had been inspected and cleared to resume classes, Education Secretary Aurelio Nuno said Monday.

German nationalists' triumph rooted in eastern discontent

BAUTZEN, Germany (AP)— The nationalist, anti-migrant Alternative for Germany swept into third place with a robust showing in the former communist East German states, where discontent is widespread over dim economic prospects and Chancellor Angela Merkel's decision to open the country's doors to migrants has met with its greatest resistance.

The hill-top town of Bautzen, in Saxony near Germany's borders with the Czech Republic and Poland, has been a visible example of such disillusionment, with clashes breaking out in the streets last year between residents and asylum-seekers.

In Sunday's election, voters in the town of 40,000 turned strongly to Alternative for Germany, known as AfD, ousting Merkel's Christian Democratic Union party from a seat it had held for more than 25 years.

"I've voted for the CDU for the last forty years, and this was the first time I voted for a different party," said Jens Hamburger, a 72-year-old retiree. "It wasn't easy for me, but this woman should have gotten an even bigger knock over her head," he added, angrily poking his cane into the air as he talked about Merkel.

He said many eastern Germans felt that Merkel, who grew up in the former East Germany, had betrayed them by not doing more to improve living conditions in the east.

"She'd practiced the politics of indifference toward us," Hamburger said. "I voted for AfD and I'm very content with the results."

AfD won 12.6 percent of the vote overall, but captured 22.5 percent in the east. Its success followed a campaign focused on criticism of the chancellor's decision to open the country's doors to more than 1 million asylum-seekers over the past two years. In Saxony, where Bautzen is located, it narrowly topped Merkel's CDU to become the biggest party, with 27 percent.

Merkel told reporters that AfD's support in the east was mirrored in some economically depressed areas of the west by voters with similar worries, and conceded she would have to do more to address their concerns.

"It's simply fear of losing out, and concern that what they have today could be lost, be it through globalization, be it through sharing with refugees," she said.

Alexander Ahrens, the mayor of Bautzen whose center-left Social Democratic Party suffered a stinging defeat in the election, said his townspeople voted for the AfD out of fear, not hatred. He said that the town has fewer than 2 percent foreign residents, including recent migrants.

"The people who voted for AfD are not bad people," he told The Associated Press. "One has to talk to the people, approach them, and should by no means judge them for their fears."

Good Housekeeping

ON GARDENING:

Fall in love with Patti Faye, the most exquisite deodar cedar

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

It's funny about 4 1/2 years ago I wrote an article titled "Deodar Cedar Simply Unbeatable in the Winter Landscape." That still holds true, but I would like to suggest a new title "Patti Faye Deodar Cedar Simply Unbeatable in the Landscape."

Every day as I come into the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens and as I leave I watch Patti Faye which is the most unbelievable Christmas tree shaped conifer for the southern garden. I'll admit I have been partial to the Japanese fir, Abies firma as the most exquisite Christmas tree for the south but not anymore.

Despite having a heritage connected to Afghanistan, Patti Faye is a Southern Girl from Mobile, Alabama. Ralph Rushing discovered it in 2000 from a group of seedlings, and he named it after his wife, Patti. When you have a classic conifer with outstanding performance in places like Mobile and Savannah, Ga., then you know its keeper.

Patti Faye is cold hardy through zones 7 which represents a broad swath of the country. If you live in a colder zone, then you may want to Shalimar, known for extra cold hardiness. Pattie Faye, however, has stolen my heart with its blue needles and horizontal branching habit.

Most deodar cedars you see have pendulous branching which is ever so graceful, but this is what makes Patti Faye so incredible. Also called Himalayan cedar it does have the ability to reach 40-50 feet with a 30-foot spread.

Conifers or cone-bearing trees or shrubs are the ones that when everything else goes brown or dormant, really stand out. They are so important to the winter landscape giving us that needed evergreen structure. Of course with Patti Faye, this foliage or needles are steel blue.

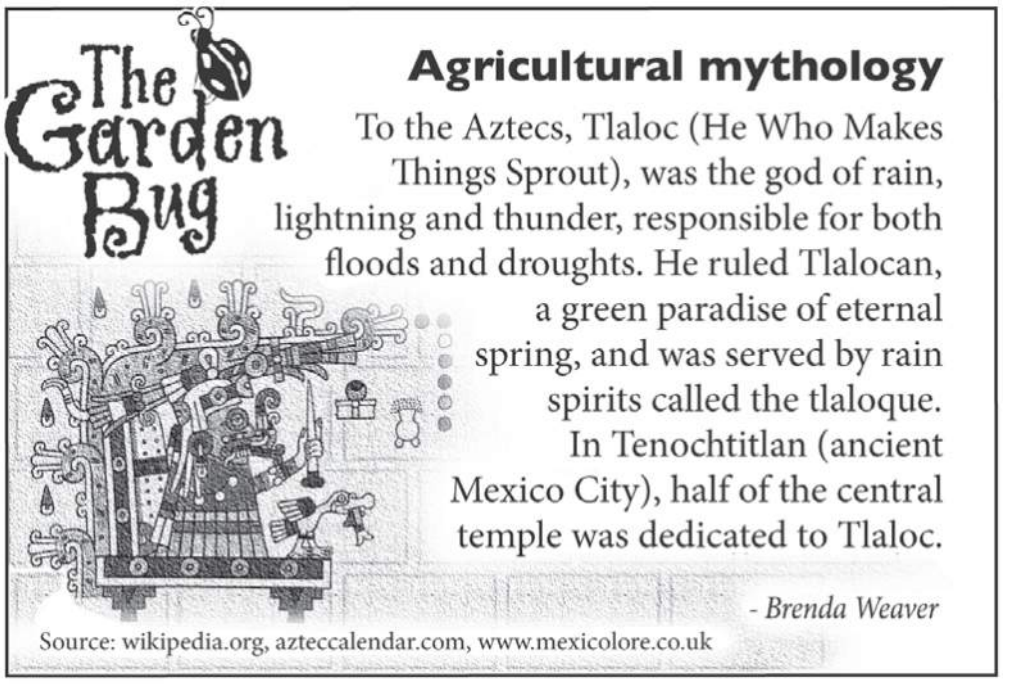
Deodars are still mostly sold generically, which is ok but keep your eyes open for the named selections like Patti Faye, Aurea which is smaller, reaching to 30 feet and has golden yellow new foliage and Pendula that has long, weeping branches and grows no taller than 10 feet. Don't forget Shalimar which released by the Arnold Arboretum is known for superior cold hardiness for landscapes in zone 6.

But another variety we have in the garden that is a most pleasant surprise is Snow Sprite. This variety is a dwarf weeping type that literature would make you think it would be happier further north. Its origination is Vancouver, Canada but has been wonderful in Savannah. This white tipped deodar in colder climates reaches 4-to- 6 feet after 10 years; we have reached that parameter in less than four in Savannah. I expect the weeping characteristics will now become more pronounced.

Deodar cedars are relatively fast growing for the first decade or two, reaching as high as 30 feet in its first 10 years. I think it is most beautiful at this stage. Between years 10 and 20, it will slowly broaden at the top. Older specimens generally show some top dieback, but don't let this keep you from experiencing 10 to 20 years of deodar heaven in-your landscape.

They perform best in full sun and are drought tolerant once established. This tree likes well-drained locations. Most deodar cultivars will grow into large, handsome specimen trees that need plenty of room you'll want these in the back of a large landscape so they can be seen in their entirety.

Norman Winter is director of the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, and author of "Tough-as-Nails Flowers for the South" and "Captivating Combinations: Color and Style in the Garden." Follow him at: @CGBGgardenguru


The Garden Bug
Agricultural mythology
To the Aztecs, Tlaloc (He Who Makes Things Sprout), was the god of rain, lightning and thunder, responsible for both floods and droughts. He ruled Tlalocan, a green paradise of eternal spring, and was served by rain spirits called the tlaloque. In Tenochtitlan (ancient Mexico City), half of the central temple was dedicated to Tlaloc.
- Brenda Weaver
Source: wikipedia.org, azteccalendar.com, www.mexicolore.co.uk

Patti Faye deodar cedar produces branches with a horizontal structure. TNS

Snow Sprite is a white tipped dwarf deodar cedar with a weeping habit and suitable for smaller spaces. TNS

Patti Faye deodar cedar has steel blue colored foliage or needles. TNS

Patti Faye deodar cedar has a classic Christmas tree shape. TNS

Life & Style

Air Force 1 replica takes visitors inside presidential 747

NORTH KINGSTOWN, R.I. (AP)—The image is among the most indelible of any American presidency: The commander-in-chief and first lady emerging with a wave from Air Force One.

Now, people outside the first family have a chance to recreate that shot, and get a behind-the-scenes peek at the world's most famous Boeing 747. A new Air Force One replica, currently on display in Rhode Island until the end of October and headed next to New York, meticulously recreates many of the details inside the aircraft.

The Air Force One Experience is the brainchild of Ari Scharf, who says he hopes to inspire an appreciation for democracy, the right to vote and the United States.

"This is a great asset to let kids know America belongs to them. It's a very, very sensitive time right now. There's many people that feel they're not included in this country," Scharf said. "We have to do everything we can to get them engaged, to make them know their voice can be heard."

There are other ways to experience Air Force One: The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California, for example, has an earlier, smaller Boeing 707 version on display. But Scharf said he wanted to recreate the current, 747 Air Force One, because it is a modern marvel that allows the president to travel within his own domain.

Inside the plane, visitors can peek inside the president's bedroom, recreated here with two twin beds. They can imagine cabinet secretaries gathered in a conference room, or the president sitting at his desk. A small sitting area serves as a mobile medical clinic. The second floor of the plane, including the cockpit, is off-limits.

"We built this for kids, but we're finding that adults are enjoying this as well. I didn't expect to see all these adults coming without kids," Scharf said.

While the 747 is fully functional, and Scharf would not rule out flying it sometime, it is due to travel by barge to New York.

In this Monday, Sept. 18, 2017 photo Christopher Jenkins waves while he stands with Julia Mord as they mimic a presidential arrival for a friend who is making their picture during their tour of the "Air Force One Experience," a full-sized 747 replica of Air Force One which is now open to the public in North Kingstown, R.I.

AP

Still unfinished is the back of the airplane, in an area where the press sits on the real Air Force One. The replica will instead use the space for a learning center for school groups, Scharf said. The work should be finished before it opens in New York at a yet-to-be announced location next summer, Scharf said.

Only the president and his family are allowed through the front door of the real Air Force One. Perhaps that's why the front door seemed to be the biggest attraction one recent day. Visitors snapped selfies of themselves and got each other to pose in front of the presidential seal.

"Your average person would never get the chance to do that," Ken Martin, of Plymouth, England, said shortly after taking photos with his friends on the rolling staircase.

Alysia Palmisciano, of Moosup, Connecticut, came with her four children. She homeschools her oldest son, Riley, 6, and she used their visit as an opportunity to talk with him about the presidency and what it means.

"A lot of people never get this close to Air Force One," she said. "It's pretty cool."

James Corden returns to host Hollywood Film Awards

In this Nov. 6, 2016, file photo, host James Corden speaks at the 20th annual Hollywood Film Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

AP

LOS ANGELES (AP) — James Corden will return as host of the Hollywood Film Awards later this year.

Dick Clark Productions, which produces the awards, made the announcement in a press release Monday.

This is the third straight year that the "Late Late Show" host has helmed the ceremony, scheduled to take place Sunday, Nov. 5, in Beverly Hills, California.

This is the 21st year for the HFAs, which bills itself as "the official launch of the awards season." Honorees for this year's awards are set to be announced at a later date.

Airbnb launches local tours in NYC with Sarah Jessica Parker

By BETH J. HARPAZ
AP TRAVEL EDITOR

Airbnb is launching local tours and other experiences in New York City this week, with one listing promising "an unforgettable shoe-shopping experience" led by a New Yorker whose bio describes her as "an actor, producer, businesswoman ... and a proud New Yorker."

Parker

That host is Sarah Jessica Parker. Each participant will get a pair of shoes from her SJP Collection at Bloomingdale's, with a stop at the department store's Forty Carrots cafe for frozen yogurt before the guests head off to the ballet.

The listing for Parker's Oct. 6 experience will go live Tuesday morning, with four spaces bookable at $400 each, first come, first served. The money will go to the New York City Ballet, where Parker is a board member.

Parker said in a phone interview with The Associated Press that she gave a lot of thought to making sure that her tour "speaks to the very colorful identity that is New York. We could have gone to MOMA or the Whitney or walked through Chinatown or certainly had a nice walk on the High Line or just strolled the streets of the East Village or Midtown East." She decided on Bloomingdale's because it's "an iconic destination" where she hopes to "be of service" in helping her guests pick out the perfect footwear.

The ballet, she added, is "one of the great cultural experiences anybody can have" in New York, whether they live here or are visiting.

Parker's listing is one of several Airbnb "social impact experiences" being offered in New York by celebrities for charity. Others include former NFL player Michael Strahan taking guests golfing at Chelsea Piers to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and actor Ansel Elgort leading a visit to his Brooklyn neighborhood to benefit Americares hurricane relief efforts.

Airbnb has been offering experiences in other cities since November as part of a larger "trips" platform. It's now in 40 markets worldwide, including Barcelona, Havana and Tokyo. A handful of New York experiences have been listed since March, all in Harlem, but the trips rollout this week will expand to 150 experiences citywide, from "secrets of the subway" to a walk through New York's "tattoo history."

Prices for experiences in other markets range from under $10 to more than $100, depending on location and what's offered. Hosts get 80 percent of the fee, Airbnb the rest, except for the social impact experiences, where 100 percent goes to charity.

Fans of the HBO series "Sex and the City," which Parker starred in, still seek out places around New York where the show was filmed. "There's so much of the city that I recall from the many years of shooting on the streets," Parker said. Did she consider taking guests on her Airbnb tour to Magnolia Bakery in Greenwich Village, where a famous cupcake-eating scene was shot? "You know what," she said with a laugh, "it didn't even occur to me."

Airbnb is primarily known for vacation rentals around the world. Officials in many cities have criticized the company, saying its short-term rentals are reducing long-term housing options for residents and forcing prices up.

Jennifer Lopez donates $1M to Puerto Rico relief

NEW YORK (AP) — Jennifer Lopez has pledged $1 million toward hurricane relief efforts in her family's native Puerto Rico.

Lopez announced during a news conference with New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Sunday that she would give money from her ongoing Las Vegas residency to various charities in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. Lopez says she's also enlisting the help of her boyfriend, former New York Yankees star Alex Rodriguez, and her ex-husband, Marc Anthony.

The 48-year-old Lopez was born in New York to Puerto Rican parents. She says she still has family on the island that she has yet hear from.

Fellow singer Ricky Martin has donated $100,000 to the relief effort and launched an online fundraiser. Puerto Rican rapper Daddy Yankee is sending four truckloads of supplies donated by his fans.

AP

Jennifer Lopez announces her new hurricane recovery efforts for Puerto Rico Sunday, Sept. 24, 2017 in New York. She pledge to donate time and money help the recovery efforts.

Singer Art Garfunkel reveals feelings, thoughts

Art Garfunkel once envisioned a simple life as a mathematics teacher. He earned a master's degree and was well on his way to becoming a Ph.D. That plan was derailed when he and Paul Simon became famous as the folk-rock duo Simon & Garfunkel.

"What Is It All but Luminous: Notes from an Underground Man" is a charming book of prose and poetry printed in a digitalized version of his handwriting. In it, he reveals his thoughts and feelings about his turbulent life.

Garfunkel's accomplishments are many: With Paul Simon, he won six Grammy Awards, the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award and was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. As a solo singer, he scored three Top 20 hits. He also won acclaim for his film roles in "Catch-22" and "Carnal Knowledge."

In 1970, S&G broke up after dominating the pop charts for five years. In 1981, he performed with Simon before more than 500,000 fans in New York's Central Park and belted out his signature vocal "Bridge over Troubled Water." In 2010, he temporarily lost his voice due to a vocal cord problem and struggled to regain it.

His poems in "Luminous" are witty, candid and wildly imaginative. He comes through as a highly intelligent man trying to make sense of his extraordinary life. ***(AP)***

Rickles' series featuring celeb interviews to debut online

NEW YORK (AP) — A digital series starring late comedy legend Don Rickles will debut online Monday.

The 13-episode show "Dinner with Don ," produced by AARP Studios, features Rickles interviewing celebrities such as Jimmy Kimmel, Snoop Dogg , Robert De Niro and Martin Scorsese at his favorite restaurants in Hollywood.

Rickles, known as the grandmaster of insult comedy, died in April of kidney failure at age 90. AARP said the series was Rickles' final project. They began shooting in November 2016 and ended in January.

"Dinner with Don" also includes interviews with Amy Poehler, Zach Galifianakis, Paul Rudd, Sarah Silverman, Billy Crystal, Rich Eisen, Vince Vaughn, Marisa Tomei, Jonathan Silverman and Judd Apatow.

It will be available on the AARP's YouTube channel.

AP

In this image released by AARP Studios, Don Rickles, left, and Snoop Dogg listen to music during an appearance on Rickles' 13-episode series "Dinner with Don." Rickles, who died in April of kidney failure at age 90, interviews celebrities such as Jimmy Kimmel, Snoop Dogg, Robert De Niro and Martin Scorsese at his favorite restaurants in Hollywood. The series can be seen on AARP's digital platform DinnerWithDon.com.

McCain calls brain cancer prognosis 'very poor'

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Sen. John McCain says doctors have given him a "very poor prognosis" as he battles brain cancer.

McCain underwent surgery in July for a brain tumor that was later found to be a form of glioblastoma, the same type of cancer that took the life of his former Senate colleague Edward M. Kennedy in 2009. McCain tells CBS' "60 Minutes" in an interview that aired Sunday night that he thinks about Kennedy a lot. He says Kennedy continued to work despite the diagnosis and "never gave up because he loved the engagement."

McCain says he has "feelings sometimes of fear of what happens," but counters that with gratitude for having lived "a great life."

He adds: "it's not that you're leaving, it's that you — that you stayed."

Girlfriend's stunning revelation leaves entire family shocked

DEAR ABBY: My son and his live-in girlfriend were expecting a baby. My daughter planned the shower, and it was a wonderful eight months of excitement. I was included in the ultrasounds and all information, and we were all anticipating the big day. Two weeks before the baby was due, my son showed up and announced that the baby is not his. He was heartbroken, as were all of us.

I had given them items that should have stayed in the family, and many of his friends and our extended family gave them a lot of gifts. Shouldn't those things be returned? She cheated on my son, became pregnant by another man and then waited until the end to break his heart. Your advice would be appreciated.

SAD AND MAD IN IDAHO

DEAR SAD AND MAD: Please accept my sympathy for the very real loss your family has experienced. My question to you would be, how is your son handling this revelation? Is the relationship over, or is there a chance he could forgive her, reconcile and accept the baby as his own? (Some men do.)

If that's the case, let things stand as they are. However, if he won't, you should politely ask for the family items to be returned. Rightfully, they should be. Assuming they are in her possession and were given as gifts, she may refuse, and you can't force her. Be prepared, hang onto your temper and try not to say anything for which you might be sorry later. This is a time for negotiation, not vendetta.

DEAR ABBY: I was raped when I was 13. My uncle was the person who took me to the home of his friend who raped me. After that, my uncle started molesting me. Instead of believing me, my parents believed my uncle's lies. They blamed and abandoned me afterward. I had to learn about life the hard way.

My dad is dead now, and I don't associate with my mom or anyone on her side of the family. I always mess up any relationship I have. I love the guy I have been seeing for three years, but I'm still doing the same things that ruined my last relationships. I have a huge problem with trust, even with this new guy. How do I stop acting like this?

NEEDS HELP IN FLORIDA

DEAR NEEDS HELP: Considering your history, your trust issues are a normal reaction to what was done to you by your family. That your parents would believe your abuser instead of you when you told them you had been assaulted is appalling.

If there is a rape treatment center near where you live, reach out to it for help. If there isn't, and you can't afford private counseling, contact the county department of mental health and ask to talk to a licensed psychotherapist.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

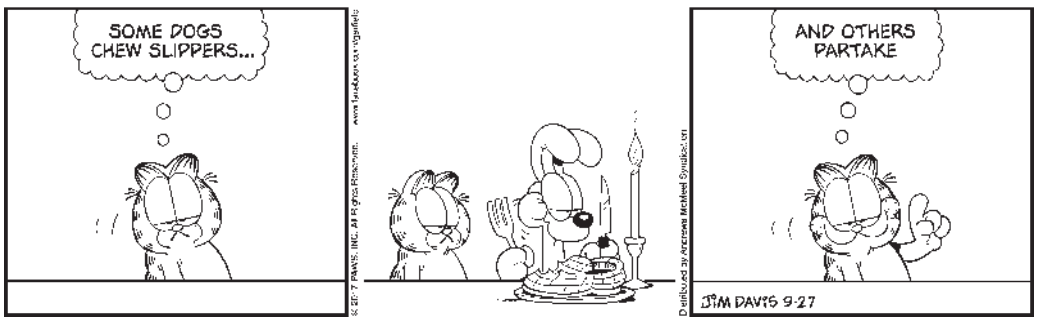
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HOBBES! YOU'RE BACK! I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU!
I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU, TOO.
GOSH, WEREN'T YOU SCARED BEING OUT IN THE WOODS AT NIGHT?
HECK NO, TIGERS AREN'T SCARED OF THAT! I GOT SO BORED I HIKED BACK.
MOM! LOOK! HOBBES IS BACK!
YES, YOUR DAD FOUND HIM LAST NIGHT AND BROUGHT HIM IN.
IS THAT SO-O-O?!
MM-HMM. WHY DON'T YOU GO THANK HIM RIGHT NOW?

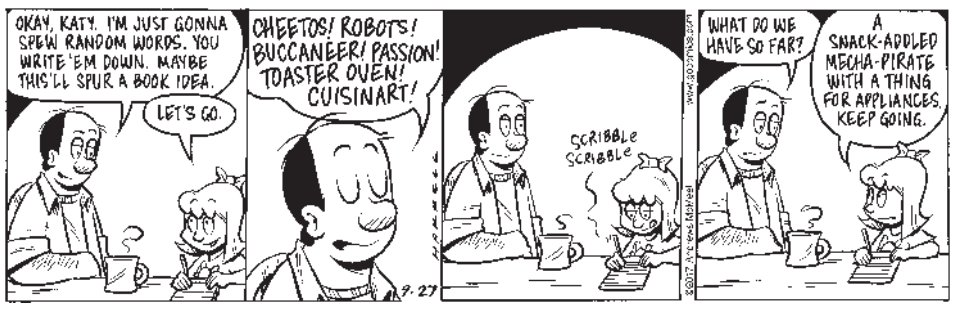
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY, KATY. I'M JUST GONNA SPEW RANDOM WORDS. YOU WRITE 'EM DOWN. MAYBE THIS'LL SPUR A BOOK IDEA.
LET'S GO.
CHEETOS! ROBOTS! BUCCANEER! PASSION! TOASTER OVEN! CUISINART!
SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE
WHAT DO WE HAVE SO FAR?
A SNACK-ADDLED MECHA-PIRATE WITH A THING FOR APPLIANCES. KEEP GOING.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 May honorees
5 Silent
8 Crisp cookie
12 Sheltered
13 Hot temper
14 Existed
15 Western Hemisphere
17 Dazzles
18 Polite denial
19 Aspen topper
21 Zilch
24 — bind
25 Saucer-shaped instrument
28 Teen fave
30 Cistern
33 Citrus drink
34 Thai or Korean
35 Before
36 Church seat
37 "Oops!"
38 Never again?
39 "— voyage!"
41 Ride the waves
43 Divides
46 Bumbling
50 Combine
51 Recent arrival
54 Skin soother
55 Expert
56 Fork prong
57 Lincoln in-law
58 Sailor
59 Otherwise

DOWN
1 "Death in Venice" author
2 Bread spread
3 Kitten calls
4 Betsy Ross' forte
5 Soviet space station
6 Web address
7 Prescriptions, for short
8 Suitor
9 Home of Yale University
10 Length x width
11 Nuisance
16 Manmouse link
20 Pottery oven
22 Plate
23 Francisco's farewell
25 Opening
26 Praise in verse
27 Group of fresh recruits
29 Waikiki's island
31 Curved line
32 Golf peg
34 Pop's sister
38 Renowned
40 Lubricated
42 Rock's Ocasek
43 Quarrel
44 Horse play?
45 Hose woe
47 Actor Jannings
48 Corrals
49 Sloth's home
52 Green prefix
53 Spider's home

Solution time: 23 mins.

A	T	O	M	■	P	F	C	■	A	B	C	D
P	U	M	A	■	L	E	A	■	N	A	L	A
E	G	G	H	E	A	D	S	■	D	R	E	W
■	■	■	L	E	N	■	C	A	R	B	O	N
N	O	B	E	L	■	C	A	V	E	■	■	■
C	V	C	R	■	S	I	D	C	A	R	M	S
M	A	A	■	T	U	N	E	R	■	C	O	H
C	L	D	H	A	N	D	S	■	B	C	L	O
■	■	■	I	N	D	Y	■	F	A	T	E	D
T	W	I	N	G	E	■	F	A	R	■	■	■
W	I	N	D	■	C	O	L	D	F	E	E	T
O	N	C	E	■	K	I	A	■	L	Y	R	A
S	E	A	R	■	S	I	Y	■	Y	F	A	R

Yesterday's answer 9-27

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				16				■	17			
18					■	■	19	20				
■	■	■	21		22	23	■	24			■	■
25	26	27		■	28		29		■	30	31	32
33			■	34					■	35		
36			■	37				■	38			
■	■	39	40		■	41		42		■	■	■
43	44				45	■	■	46		47	48	49
50				■	51	52	53					
54					55			■	56			
57				■	58			■	59			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Avril Lavigne, 33; Gwyneth Paltrow, 45; Tamara Taylor, 47; Meat Loaf, 70.

Happy Birthday: You'll crave excitement, change and trying new things. Your desire to make improvements will not be met with enthusiasm by those who depend on or are concerned about you. Keep moderation and practicality in mind before you make a move. Impulsiveness will lead to disagreements and frustration. Willingness to discuss matters openly will help counter poor decisions. Your numbers are 4, 10, 22, 27, 35, 44, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Channel your energy into work and taking care of business. Refuse to let your emotions override what's important. Being productive will ward off any troubles that might arise if you don't take care of your responsibilities. Choose peace and love over discord. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Work toward your goals. Get information and do what it takes to hone your skills to fit current trends happening in the industry you enjoy working in most. An energetic approach to love and personal growth will be enlightening. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Property investments, contracts, and health matters should be addressed. Having a practical approach to the way you handle your money and personal matters will encourage you to move forward. Joint ventures aren't favored. Go it alone. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Keep a steady pace. Refuse to let your emotions take over and wreak havoc with your personal life or interfere with responsibilities. Overreacting and giving in to temptation will not help matters. Offer love and peace, not discord. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* You can make changes that will improve your personal or professional position if you put in the effort and strive for perfection and sticking to a set budget. Personal gains and improvements are highlighted. Children and seniors will offer insightful opinions. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* You'll find it difficult to concentrate on professional gains when you have demanding people in your life. Consider what's best for you and how you can achieve the lifestyle you deserve. Don't get down when you should get moving. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Listen carefully and ask questions if you are confused or uncertain. Too much of anything should be your signal to back away. Moderation will be in your best interest. Refuse to let your emotions overrule your intelligence. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Say what you think, but don't let your emotions lead to exaggerating the circumstances. If you want something, be willing to work for it. Unusual alterations at home or work will end up being in your best interest. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Get your work done and stay out of trouble. Live up to what's expected of you and stick to the truth. Don't let anger result from not being honest about the way you feel or what you do. ✪✪✪

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

5		8				4		
	7		3		8		2	
		2				1		
	2		8		5		3	9
				3				
	4	3	6	9	2	8	1	
		7				5		
		9				6		
			1	8	9			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	3	2	9	1	6	5	4	8
6	5	8	3	2	4	7	1	9
4	1	9	5	8	7	3	2	6
1	9	7	8	5	2	6	3	4
3	4	5	6	7	1	9	8	2
8	2	6	4	9	3	1	7	5
9	7	3	2	6	8	4	5	1
2	6	4	1	3	5	8	9	7
5	8	1	7	4	9	2	6	3

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/27

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Handle friends, siblings and authority figures carefully. A helpful, sincere response to what others request will help you get your way. A money matter looks promising and a joint venture should be considered. Personal physical improvements can be made. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Emotions will surface if someone takes advantage of you financially. Don't feel the need to pay for someone else. Offer suggestions, but don't open your wallet. A change in the way you deal with others will help you gain respect. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You can make amends and start over. Having a heart-to-heart talk with someone you don't always agree with will help you put things behind you so that you can move forward without feeling bad. Do what's best for you. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are entertaining, insightful and sensitive. You are friendly and adaptable.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LONG-DISTANCE DRIVING EXPERIENCE Solution: 4 letters

E	M	N	R	E	H	T	A	E	W	O	L	L	I	P
P	N	E	W	E	A	C	A	R	E	N	T	A	L	E
A	A	T	N	O	A	V	O	I	D	M	P	A	R	T
S	R	S	E	I	T	D	A	R	K	U	N	A	C	S
S	B	E	S	R	G	F	U	E	L	S	D	H	O	C
P	L	T	V	E	T	N	O	F	S	I	A	O	U	O
O	A	U	S	I	N	A	E	T	O	C	Y	T	N	M
R	N	O	L	E	R	G	I	T	U	O	S	E	T	F
T	K	R	M	O	A	D	E	N	A	O	D	L	R	O
R	E	I	A	T	N	T	M	R	M	L	I	I	Y	R
O	T	D	T	E	R	G	B	O	S	E	K	G	L	T
P	S	O	N	A	A	O	V	E	T	R	N	H	I	A
R	C	O	V	M	O	I	M	I	L	E	S	T	M	B
I	L	E	E	K	E	V	I	S	I	T	L	S	A	L
A	L	S	S	S	S	T	E	E	R	T	S	A	F	E

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Airport, Alone, Avoid, Blankets, Books, Care, Comfortable, Cooler, Cottage, Country, Dark, Days, Driver, Engine, Entertainment, Family, Food, Fuel, Games, Hotel, Kids, Lights, Long, Miles, Motel, Movies, Music, Out of Town, Passengers, Passport, Pets, Pillow, Plan, Radio, Read, Rental, Roads, Route, Safe, Seat Belts, Streets, Talk, Time, Travel, Visit, Weather

Yesterday's Answer: Knotting

Treasuries 13 through 29 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(01) ASSISTANT ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Job Purpose:
Maximizes return on financial assets by establishing financial policies, procedures, controls, and reporting systems.

Duties:
- Guides financial decisions by establishing, monitoring, and enforcing policies and procedures.
- Protects assets by establishing, monitoring, and enforcing internal controls.
- Monitors and confirms financial condition by conducting audits; providing information to external auditors.
- Prepares budgets by establishing schedules; collecting, analyzing, and consolidating financial data; recommending plans.
- Achieves budget objectives by scheduling expenditures; analyzing variances; initiating corrective actions.
- Provides status of financial condition by collecting, interpreting, and reporting financial data.
- Prepares special reports by collecting, analyzing, and summarizing information and trends.
- Complies with federal, state, and local legal requirements by studying existing and new legislation; anticipating future legislation; enforcing adherence to requirements; filing financial reports; advising management on needed actions.
- Completes operational requirements by scheduling and assigning employees; following up on work results.
- Maintains financial staff by recruiting, selecting, orienting, and training employees.
- Maintains professional and technical knowledge by attending educational workshops; reviewing professional publications; establishing personal networks; participating in professional societies.
- Protects operations by keeping financial information and plans confidential.
- Prepare income taxes for all entities.
- Prepares monthly financial statements.
- Reviews work of the accounting staff.
- Contributes to team effort by accomplishing related results as needed.

Skills/Qualifications:
- Managing Processes, Financial Software, Developing Standards, Audit, Accounting, Corporate Finance, Tracking Budget Expenses, Financial Skills, Analyzing Information , Developing Budgets, Performance Management.
- Strong analytical and communication skills.
- Knowledge of financial reporting systems preferably Quickbooks.
- Knowledge of Excel.

Employer Preference: Must have own transportation to and from the workplace. US citizen or green card holder preferred. Looking to hire immediately.

Interested applicants must submit resume to our Bridge Capital office on Micro Beach Rd., Garapan, Saipan or email to Tania Mesa, HR Manager at: tania.mesa@bccnmi.com. Deadline to submit application will be on Friday, September 29, 2017 at 4:00 pm.

ACHUGAO SERVICES, LLC
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(01) Bookkeeper

Duties:
- Update and maintain accounts payable and receivables.
- Prepare bank deposits, verify and balance receipts, handle payroll, prepare invoices and keep track of overdue accounts.
- Monitor loans and payments, balance and reconcile billing vouchers, and enter code transactions according to company accounting procedures.
- Maintain general ledger and subsidiary accounts by verifying, allocating, and posting transactions.
- Balance subsidiary accounts by reconciling entries.
- Balance general ledger by preparing a trial balance; reconciling entries.
- Maintain historical records by filing documents and scanning documents to server.
- Prepare financial reports by collecting, analyzing, and summarizing account information and trends.
- Comply with federal, state, and local legal requirements by studying requirements; enforcing adherence to requirements; filing reports; advising management on needed actions.

Skills/Qualifications:
- Employer Preference: Knowledge in Excel, MC Word, Power Point programs. Must have a minimum of two (2) years work experience in accounting. Must have thorough knowledge of QuickBooks Accounting System. Must work with minimal or no supervision. Must have own transportation to and from the workplace. US citizen or green card holder preferred. Looking to hire immediately.

Interested applicants must submit resume to our Bridge Capital office on Micro Beach Rd., Garapan, Saipan or email to Tania Mesa, HR Manager at: tania.mesa@bccnmi.com. Deadline to submit application will be on Friday, September 29, 2017 at 4:00 pm.

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Judge breaks McGwire's HR rookie record

NEW YORK (AP)—Aaron Judge broke Mark McGwire's major league record for home runs by a rookie, hitting a pair for the second straight day to raise his total to 50 and lead the New York Yankees over the Kansas City Royals 11-3 Monday.

The 6-foot-7, 25-year-old slugger tied the mark with a two-run drive to right-center off Jakob Junis (8-3) in the third inning that put New York ahead 3-0. His solo shot over the visitors' bullpen in left against Trevor Cahill in the seventh made it 7-3 and earned him a rare curtain call.

Judge has 13 home runs in September and six in five games, and he is second in the majors behind Miami's Giancarlo Stanton, who has 57. Judge has four multihomer games this month and seven this season.

Judge was hitting .329 with 30 homers and 66 RBI when he won the All-Star Home Run Derby, then slumped to a .179 average with seven homers and 16 RBI from the start of the second half through Aug. 31, striking out 67 times in 44 games. His September rebound boosted his average to .283 with 108 RBI and an AL-leading 120 walks and a big league-high 203 strikeouts, putting himself back into MVP consideration.

McGwire hit 49 homers for Oakland in 1987, breaking the previous mark of 38 set by the Boston Braves' Wally Berger in 1930 and matched by Cincinnati's Frank Robinson in 1956.

Greg Bird added a two-run homer into the right field second deck in the sixth, his seventh home run this season and fourth in nine games. Gary Sanchez followed Judge in the seventh with back-to-back homers for the third time this year, raising his total to 33.

New York Yankees' Aaron Judge follows through on a two-run homer during the third inning of a baseball game against the Kansas City Royals at Yankee Stadium, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017, in New York.

Bryce Harper remained out of Washington's lineup with flu-like symptoms. The team had said it was possible he would return Monday from a knee injury that's kept him out since Aug. 12.

Odubel Herrera homered for the last-place Phillies.

Cole (3-5) struck out five and walked two. Sean Doolittle worked a perfect ninth for his 21st save in 21 chances with the Nationals since being acquired from Oakland on July 16.

Aaron Nola (12-11) allowed Taylor's two-run homer in the second but otherwise pitched well.

Giants 9, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Nick Hundley hit a three-run homer, Johnny Cueto pitched six solid innings and San Francisco beat the resting Arizona Diamondbacks.

Arizona sat most of its regulars a day after clinching the top NL wild card. The Diamondbacks made four errors.

Hunter Pence hit a solo shot in a five-run fourth against starter Zack Godley (8-9).

Cueto (8-8) held the Diamondbacks to two runs and five hits. He struck out eight and walked two.

Braves 9, Mets 2, 1st Game
Mets 3, Braves 2, 2nd Game

In New York, Seth Lugo pitched two-hit ball over six innings and Travis d'Arnaud hit a record-setting homer for New York in the nightcap of a doubleheader split.

D'Arnaud hit his solo shot in the eighth inning. It was the 219th homer for the Mets, a franchise season mark. The sparse crowd at Citi Field jeered when the home run apple didn't rise after d'Arnaud's homer, then cheered when it finally came out of its bin three batters later.

Lugo (7-5) struck out seven and didn't walk anybody. Jeurys Familia got his fifth save and second since returning from surgery to repair a blood clot in his right arm.

Max Fried (1-1) gave up two runs over 5 1/3 innings for Atlanta.

In the first game, Lucas Sims (3-5) turned in his second strong performance since returning to Atlanta's rotation, allowing two runs and five hits over a career-high 6 2/3 innings. Chris Flexen (3-5) took the loss.

Cubs 10, Cardinals 2

In St. Louis, Addison Russell hit a three-run double in the first inning, then made a food run for a fan in enemy territory while Chicago beat St. Louis to move within a victory of clinching its second straight NL Central title.

Kris Bryant and Javier Baez homered for the Cubs, who can wrap up the division with a win Tuesday against the Cardinals or a loss by Milwaukee against Cincinnati.

Russell helped the Cubs get to starter Luke Weaver (7-2) early, then made some friends out of rival fans. After diving into the stands chasing a foul ball down the third-base line and spilling a fan's tray of chips, Russell emerged from the dugout a few innings later with a plate of nachos and delivered it to the fan. Russell stopped to take a selfie before heading back to play shortstop.

The loss eliminated St. Louis from NL Central contention and dimmed the Cardinals' wild-card hopes.

Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina was taken out of the game in the seventh after he took two foul balls off his mask. St. Louis announced he is in concussion protocol.

Jon Lester (12-8) allowed one run in six innings. Chicago is 11-2 in its last 13 games.

Weaver gave up eight runs in three innings. He had won seven consecutive starts, the longest by a Cardinals rookie since Ted Wilks in 1944.

Blue Jays 6, Red Sox 4

In Boston, Josh Donaldson homered and drove in three runs, powering Toronto past AL East-leading Red Sox.

Boston's six-game winning streak was snapped and its magic number to clinch a second straight division title remained at three.

Eduardo Nunez and Mookie Betts both left with injuries for the Red Sox. Nunez aggravated a right knee injury that sidelined him for 13 games, and Betts came out with pain in his left wrist.

Ryan Goins hit a solo homer and Teoscar Hernandez had a two-run double for the Blue Jays. Brett Anderson (2-2) allowed three runs in five innings.

Red Sox lefty Drew Pomeranz (16-6) had his shortest start of the season, giving up five runs and seven hits in two innings. He had only lost once in his last 18 outings.

Roberto Osuna got three outs for his 38th save.

Marlins 5, Rockies 4

In Denver, Miguel Rojas had a career-high four RBI and Miami trimmed Colorado's lead for the second NL wild card to 1+ games over Milwaukee.

With five games remaining, the Rockies have lost six of eight and are clinging to a postseason spot as they seek their first playoff berth since 2009.

Marlins slugger Giancarlo Stanton went hitless in five at-bats and remained at 57 homers. Odrisamer Despaigne (1-3) allowed two runs over six innings.

Jonathan Lucroy homered for Colorado, which rallied from a 5-1 deficit but failed to get a big hit late. Kyle Barraclough earned his first major league save when Charlie Blackmon hit into a game-ending double play.

After rain delayed the start by 26 minutes, Miami got five straight hits in a four-run fourth against starter Tyler Chatwood (8-14).

Dodgers 9, Padres 3

In Los Angeles, Yu Darvish pitched two-hit ball over seven innings and Los Angeles beat San Diego to reach 100 wins for the first time in 43 years.

Logan Forsythe went 3 for 3 with a home run and four RBI as the NL West champions moved 1+ games ahead of Cleveland for the best record in the majors and home-field advantage throughout the postseason. Los Angeles (100-57) can secure home-field edge for the entire NL playoffs Tuesday with a win and a Washington loss.

Austin Barnes hit a three-run homer for the Dodgers, who hadn't reached the century mark since winning 102 regular-season games in 1974.

Darvish (10-12) was perfect through four innings and didn't allow a hit until Hunter Renfroe doubled with one out in the fifth. The right-hander permitted one run while striking out nine and walking none.

Padres starter Travis Wood (4-7) allowed six runs in 4 2/3 innings.

White Sox 4, Angels 2

In Chicago, James Shields tossed seven strong innings, Nicky Delmonico hit a two-run double and Chicago damaged Los Angeles' slim playoff hopes.

With six games remaining, the Angels trail Minnesota by five games for the second AL wild card.

Mike Trout hit his 30th homer for the Angels, who have dropped seven of eight.

Shields (5-7) allowed two runs and four hits. Juan Minaya got three outs for his seventh save.

Ricky Nolasco (6-15) allowed four runs, two earned, in five-plus innings.

Mariners 7, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Mitch Haniger homered twice and Felix Hernandez won for the first time in more than two months as Seattle defeated Oakland.

A day after being eliminated from playoff contention, the slumping Mariners snapped Oakland's season-high seven-game winning streak and its eight-game run at home. Seattle had lost eight of nine.

Hernandez (6-5) gave up one run in six innings of two-hit ball. King Felix hadn't won since July 15, a stretch that included a stint on the disabled list from Aug. 2 to Sept. 13 with right shoulder bursitis. He was 0-2 with a 5.40 ERA in his previous five starts.

A's rookie Daniel Gossett (4-10) gave up seven runs and a career-high four homers. Mike Zunino hit a three-run shot and Yonder Alonso also went deep for the Mariners.

Andrew Albers pitched three shutout innings for his first save.

Astros 11, Rangers 2

In Arlington, Marwin Gonzalez had four hits and three RBI as AL West champion Houston put Texas on the brink of elimination in the wild-card race.

Astros second baseman Jose Altuve, the American League leader with 199 hits and a .348 batting average, left in the eighth inning after he was hit by a 95 mph fastball. The team said X-rays were negative and Altuve had a bruised forearm.

Gonzalez had two hits and scored twice in an eight-run fourth, including a two-run single that chased starter Andrew Cashner (10-11). Gonzalez later hit his 23rd homer, a solo shot in the sixth.

Collin McHugh (4-2) struck out six while throwing 112 pitches in five innings. The right-hander is 15-0 with a 2.94 ERA in 19 starts in September or October during his four seasons with the Astros.

Texas (76-80), division champs the past two years, had an early 2-0 lead before losing its fourth straight game. The Rangers dropped six games behind idle Minnesota for the second AL wild card with six to play.

Only one of the eight runs in the Astros' fourth was earned.

Nationals 3, Phillies 1

In Philadelphia, Michael Taylor homered, A.J. Cole allowed one run while pitching into the sixth inning and Washington defeated Philadelphia.

The NL East champion Nationals extended their franchise record with 50 road wins.

NBA players express frustration with Trump's words

CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James is not backing down on his comments about President Donald Trump, and countless other players and coaches in the NBA made it clear at media days around the league Monday that they are equally fed up with what could perhaps be described as a pattern of actions from the White House that they would call divisive or worse.

Politics were the storyline of the NBA on the first official business day of the season for most of the league's clubs. That was no surprise, given the events of a weekend that included Trump rescinding the champion Golden State Warriors' invitation to the White House, James calling the president a "bum" and stars like union president Chris Paul speaking out in frustration.

"We know this is the greatest country in the world," said James, the Cleveland Cavaliers' star. "It's the land of the free. But we still have problems just like everybody else and when we have those problems, we have to figure out a way how we come together and be as great as we can be as a people.

"Because the people run this country. Not one individual. And damn sure not him."

These tensions have obviously been present for far more than one weekend, but they are bubbling now in the NBA like perhaps never before—with players in many cities Monday saying they were angered over the president's use of the

AP
Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James poses for a portrait during the NBA basketball team media day, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017, in Independence, Ohio.

line "son of a bitch," cited last week during a rant about NFL players kneeling during the national anthem.

"You can't get more insulting than that," Phoenix center Tyson Chandler said.

Added Miami forward Udonis Haslem: "I don't think President Trump wants to fight any of them defensive linemen or anybody in the NFL. Probably should just be respectful."

James referred to Trump as "that guy," and defended his decision to tweet that the president is a "bum"—a post that quickly became one of Twitter's most-shared ever. The name-calling continued Monday: Washington Wizards guard Bradley Beal said Trump is "a clown" and Toronto Raptors guard DeMar DeRozan said the president is a "so-called leader."

"I think the president brought a lot of this stuff on himself," said DeRozan, who is American but plays in Canada. "He brought it on himself, he brought it on us as a country. ... I feel no player is trying to disrespect anybody, no flag or anything like that, but we seem to be the ones who get all the disrespect from our so-called leader."

Trump's comments about the NFL and NBA come at a time where the government has obvious concerns about matters involving North Korea, the pledge many Republicans made to repeal and replace health care legislation, with a tax overhaul plan looming and with Florida, Texas and Puerto Rico all dealing with crippling effects of hurricanes in recent weeks.

"We all have to come together," Denver guard Jameer Nelson said. "Whether you voted for Trump or not—the world needs to be better. I don't know. I don't know what the right answer is. I don't know what the wrong answer is. Nobody does. If we did, we wouldn't be sitting here and talking about it."

After deadly protests involving white nationalists in Charlottesville, Virginia last month, Memphis Grizzlies coach David Fizdale has been actively trying to get Confederate symbols such as monuments removed from his city.

On Monday, Fizdale said it was Trump who is disrespecting military members, not athletes who protest in various ways.

"Look at what he's doing with North Korea putting our troops in danger right now instigating a war," Fizdale said. "You know how many troops we have in South Korea and Japan that's in direct line with where this guy can fire missiles? Obviously the Gold Star family that lost their son ... I can keep going on this, guys, you know that.

"So when we talk about disrespecting our military, people need to take a look back at who's really disrespecting our military and who's really honoring our military by exercising their rights."

Media days in the NBA are a mixture of basketball-related interviews, photo sessions and some frivolity. At Heat media day, Goran Dragic—whose current contract is worth $85 million—talked about his decision to fly coach home from his native Slovenia. In Memphis, guards Mike Conley and Mario Chalmers gave haircare tips. Coaches took questions en masse, sometimes even able to actually discuss the game.

Prescott, Cowboys pull away to beat Cardinals

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Dak Prescott kneeled with his teammates and team owner before the game, flipped head over heels for a touchdown in the first half and capped his night with a 37-yard TD pass that proved to be the game winner.

The Dallas Cowboys erased last week's ugly memory on Monday night, with their young quarterback leading the way.

"He just kept battling," Dallas coach Jason Garrett said.

"He kept making good decisions. Obviously he made some good plays, big-time throws, but as much as anything else he's got an amazing spirit and our players follow him."

The Cowboys (2-1), bouncing back from a 42-17 pummeling in Denver, began the game kneeling at midfield with owner Jerry Jones in a show of unity that followed widespread protests across the NFL of critical comments by President Donald Trump over the weekend.

After they kneeled, they stood and walked to the sideline and stood for the anthem.

"We planned and it was executed that we would go out and kneel," Jones said, "and basically make the statement regarding the need for unity and the need for equality."

Prescott, 13 of 18 for 183 yards, broke a 14-14 tie with a 37-yard scoring pass to Brice Butler with 11:52 to play.

"I immediately scrambled and when I scrambled Brice took the right angle and the right initiative going to the back of the end zone," Prescott said.

Arizona, with a spectacular catch by Larry Fitzgerald for 24 yards on a third-and-18 play, moved downfield but the drive stalled. Phil Dawson's 37-yard field goal cut the lead to 21-17 with 6:35 left.

Ezekiel Elliott, who gained 8 yards on nine carries against Denver and drew criticism for not hustling after a couple of late interceptions, was bottled up much of the game, but still gained 80 yards on 22 attempts, 30 on one play. He ran 8 yards for the final Cowboys touchdown.

The Cardinals (1-2), in their home opener, got a big game from Fitzgerald, who caught 13 passes for 149 yards, in the process moving ahead of Marvin Harrison into eighth in career receiving yards. The 13 receptions tied a career high.

"That's Fitz. It's Monday night," Arizona coach Bruce Arians said. "He's a money player. It was a great performance by him. It's a shame we couldn't play better around him."

Carson Palmer had a big first half, completed 15 of 18 for 145 yards and finished 29 of 48 for 325 yards and two scores. He was sacked six times, a career-high three by DeMarcus Lawrence.

The Cardinals dominated the first half statistically, but were deadlocked with the Cowboys at 7-7. Arizona had a 152-57 advantage in yards and dominated time of possession 19:34 to 9:41.

Arizona took the opening kickoff and went 82 yards in eight plays. Palmer was 5-for-5 on the drive, capped by a 25-yard touchdown pass to Jaron Brown.

Before Dallas even had a first down, Arizona mounted a nearly nine-minute drive but a touchdown pass to Brown was negated by a holding penalty and Phil Dawson's 36-yard field goal try was wide right. It was the third mid-range miss for the 41-year-old kicker this season.

And the miss left the door open for the Cowboys to get back in it.

Prescott scored on a 10-yard run, flipping head-first over the goal line to tie it at 7-7 with 3:33 left in the half.

Jones has been a staunch supporter of President Donald Trump, so the speculation was that he would not allow his players to kneel during the national anthem.

Following a weekend of kneeling and protesting across the NFL, the Cowboys and their owner displayed their own version of unity Monday night, kneeling on the field before rising as a group and going to the sideline for the national anthem.

Numerous boos rang out across University of Phoenix Stadium as the Cowboys kneeled and continued as the players rose, still arm-in-arm, and stepped back to the sideline as the flag was unfurled across the field. They remained connected as Jordin Sparks sang the national anthem.

The Cardinals had their own symbol of unity after a weekend of protests in the NFL, gathering along the goal line arm-in-arm during the national anthem. They were joined by team president Michael Bidwell, his family and general manager Steve Keim.

"It's just to show unity," Cardinals team captain Frostee Rucker said. "There's so much negativity going on. People are trying to pull us apart. We always want to stay together."

More than 200 NFL players kneeled, sat or prayed during the national anthem on Sunday after President Trump said any player who does not stand for the national anthem should be fired.

Sparks, whose father Phillippi played in the NFL, had "PROV 31:8-9" written on her hand while she sang the anthem.

The bible verse says: "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."

White Haus, Silencer prevail

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

White Haus outclassed Green Minded, 91-85, in final game in the 2nd Ali'i Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The win was first for White Haus, which denied Green Minded its third straight victory. Five White Haus players scored at least 12 points in the triumph to negate the 31-point explosion of Ivan Devero for Green Minded.

Nate Mateo tallied 20 points, 11 of them came in the fourth quarter, as his baskets helped White Haus keep its distance against Green Minded. R.J. Nonato contributed 19, Jun Tabora chipped in 14, and Dan Hernandez and Darwin Barbo added 13 and 12, respectively. Mark Cando had 8 points, logging the last 4 for the winning squad.

White Haus needed to spread the wealth in the fourth quarter, as they entered the final frame clinging to a 66-64 lead. In contrast, Green Minded had only Devero and Leo Itaas making more than two field goals in the fourth period, as their team absorbed its first loss in three games.

Meanwhile, Silencer spoiled White Haus' bid for back-to-back wins after posting an 84-72 victory in the second game last Sunday.

Silencer fired up the hoops in the second half to turn a close game to a double-digit winning margin. Silencer was ahead by only 2 at the break, 45-43, when Kelvin Fitial and Angelo Fernando teamed up in the third-quarter assault to increase the advantage to as much as 13, 61-48.

Fernando finished with 28 poiints, while Fitial added 25 to lift Silencer to a 2-1 record. Nonato led White Haus with his 19 markers.

Saturday Game

White Haus 91— Mateo 20, Nonato 19, Tabora 14, Hernandez 13, Barbo 12, Cando 8, Ocampo 4.

Green Minded 85 — Devero 31, Itaas 13, Santos 12, Armia 11, Dela Cruz 10, Vergara 6, Tibayan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-28, 43-45, 66-64, 91-85.

Sunday Game

Silencer 84 — Fernando 28, Fitial 25, Morales 8, Usi 5, Perez 4, Estores 4, Zapata 2.

White Haus 72 — Nonato 19, Barbo 15, Mateo 13, Tabora 8, Ocampo 6, Quizon 6.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

White Haus' Jun Tabora, right, looks for a teammate to pass the ball to as he is tightly guarded by Silencer's Nestor Arreza during the third quarter of their game in the Ali'i Blue Haus caging last Sunday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

MARIANAS CUP SPONSOR CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Golf Federations Association president David Largent, center, receives a sponsor's check from Docomo Pacific vice president and general manager Dino Manning, third left, during yesterday's presentation at Docomo's Susupe branch.

WOO

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pursuer Hyuna Cho by four points, 45-41. Kyung Min Kim came in third with 40 markers, while Kyung Ae Park rounded up the participants with 37.5 points.

In other results, Yun was again unsuccessful in the women's flowboard with Morgan Moon foiling the former's bid to win at least one title. Moon garnered 38.5 points from the judges against Yun's 24.

Jun, after placing third in the pro bodyboard, won the Masters division as she bested Duckhwa Lee in their one-on-one faceoff. She collected 33 points, while Lee came up with 27.5.

Brittany Orchard went home with the women's intermediate bodyboard championship after besting four other competitors. She defeated Hyuna Cho in the finals, 45.5-43. Orchard was the top seed after the rankings and met Kyung Min Kim with the finals berth at stake. She defeated Kim, 45-37.5 to secure a spot in the title match.

Cho ousted second-ranked Kyung Ae Park, 42-35.5, to earn the right of facing Orchard in the finals.

Park clinched third place after pulling off a 35-32 decision over Kim, who scored a 36-24.5 win over Christie Boll in her first battle.

Tsunami Saipan swimmer Isaiah Aleksenko won the grometts under-11 bodyboard, a coed event after beating Ji Yong Lim, 50-42. His other wins were against Alex Minseok Kim, 49-5-33.5, and Ace Cho (disqualified).

Lim drew a bye in the elimination round and defeated Sophia Herras in the semifinals, 40.5-26.5.

Heras eliminated Andy Minsu Kim, 29.5-20.5, while Alex Minseok Kim needed another round to beat Scott Woochan Cho, 17.5-13.5. Alex Minseok Kim and Cho ended up tied at 16 in their first run.

Meanwhile, PIC-Saipan Sports and Events manager Keoni Ichihara thanked all the participants and sponsors that helped them in the annual event.

"Everyone had a great time and the winners did their best to earn the bragging rights in their respective divisions to go home with the prizes provided by our sponsors," said Ichihara, who used to compete in the tournament.

PTC, Bridge Capital, Jeju Air, Magas, Kensington Hotel, Coral Ocean Golf Resort, Mariana Resort & Spa, Aqua Resort, Kanoa Resort, Islander Rent-A-Car, T-Galleria, Triple J Wholesale, KFC/Taco Bell, Sand Castle, TASI Tours, and PIC were the sponsors.

CNMI

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the future is bright for CNMI football," added Garamendi.

The five-year strategic plan includes programs for the development of coaches, players, officials, and infrastructures.

"These will form the base for CNMI football and help NMIFA continue moving to the right direction as it seeks to strengthen the sport here," the former FIFA development officer said.

Garamendi also pointed out the steady popularity of football in the Commonwealth, in terms of participation and spectators, is a good sign for NMIFA even though the CNMI has a low population thus having limited pool of players and coaches.

He said the islands should look into the cases of some European countries, which maybe small in terms of population, but still manage to develop players and coaches that can compete against high-level teams from countries with bigger population.

"Don't be discourage with your limitation and instead look for inspiration from others who are in the same situation. Take the best practices/programs of other countries and tweak them to fit your local needs. Development is not one size fits all. The CNMI has to create its own football by learning from others," Garamendi said.

"There are a lot of good things happening here and I am sure more will come. AFC will help NMIFA and CNMI realize these goals through its program."

Meanwhile, NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta thanked AFC and Garamendi for visiting Saipan and sharing his thoughts on the association's strategic plan. The NMIFA official added they are looking forward to working with the development consultant in the future.

TORRES

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2005 and the Oceania Athletics Championship in 2008. Saipan will again host the MAC next year. The sports complex was also the main hub of the 6th Micronesian Games held in 2006. The other facilities at the sports complex—the Miguel Basa Pangelinan softball field and the Gilbert C. Ada gymnasium—were damaged during Typhoon Soudelor in 2015 and will be undergoing renovations, too.

Meanwhile, Torres said he would attend the closing ceremonies of the 10th Pacific Mini Games in Port Vila, Vanuatu on Dec. 15.

"[Press secretary] Kevin [Bautista] and I are working on it and we do have a reservation for me to attend. I actually look forward to receiving the [Mini] Games' flag," said Torres, who was still a senator when the Commonwealth earned the rights to host the quadrennial sporting event.

"We won the bid and we're ready to host the [Mini] Games here. We are planning to go and attend the closing ceremonies with other [sports] officials," he added.

The CNMI will be participating in athletics, rugby 7s, weightlifting, 3x3 basketball, and golf events in this year's Mini Games.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Boston	90	64	.584	—
z-New York	86	68	.558	4
Tampa Bay	76	79	.490	14 1/2
Baltimore	74	82	.474	17
Toronto	72	83	.465	18 1/2

Central Division

x-Cleveland	97	58	.626	—
Minnesota	81	74	.523	16
Kansas City	76	78	.494	20 1/2
Chicago	62	92	.403	34 1/2
Detroit	62	93	.400	35

West Division

x-Houston	95	59	.617	—
Los Angeles	76	78	.494	19
Texas	76	78	.494	19
Seattle	75	80	.484	20 1/2
Oakland	71	83	.461	24

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

x-Washington	93	61	.604	—
Miami	73	81	.474	20
Atlanta	70	83	.458	22 1/2
New York	66	88	.429	27
Philadelphia	61	94	.394	32 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	86	68	.558	—
Milwaukee	82	73	.529	4 1/2
St. Louis	81	73	.526	5
Pittsburgh	70	85	.452	16 1/2
Cincinnati	66	89	.426	20 1/2

West Division

x-Los Angeles	98	57	.632	—
Arizona	89	66	.574	9
Colorado	83	72	.535	15
San Diego	70	85	.452	28
San Francisco	61	94	.394	37

NFL STANDINGS

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	2	1	0	.667	50	37
New England	2	1	0	.667	99	95
Miami	1	1	0	.500	25	37
N.Y. Jets	1	2	0	.333	52	72
South						
Tennessee	2	1	0	.667	86	69
Jacksonville	2	1	0	.667	89	51
Indianapolis	1	2	0	.333	53	90
Houston	1	2	0	.333	53	74
North						
Pittsburgh	2	1	0	.667	64	50
Baltimore	2	1	0	.667	51	54
Cincinnati	0	3	0	.000	33	60
Cleveland	0	3	0	.000	56	76
West						
Kansas City	3	0	0	1.000	93	57
Denver	2	1	0	.667	82	64
Oakland	2	1	0	.667	81	63
L.A. Chargers	0	3	0	.000	48	67

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Philadelphia	2	1	0	.667	77	68
Dallas	2	1	0	.667	64	62
Washington	2	1	0	.667	71	60
N.Y. Giants	0	3	0	.000	37	70
South						
Atlanta	3	0	0	1.000	87	66
Carolina	2	1	0	.667	45	40
Tampa Bay	1	1	0	.500	46	41
New Orleans	1	2	0	.333	73	78
North						
Minnesota	2	1	0	.667	72	62
Detroit	2	1	0	.667	85	63
Green Bay	2	1	0	.667	67	67
Chicago	1	2	0	.333	47	69
West						
L.A. Rams	2	1	0	.667	107	75
Seattle	1	2	0	.333	48	59
Arizona	1	2	0	.333	56	76
San Francisco	0	3	0	.000	51	76

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

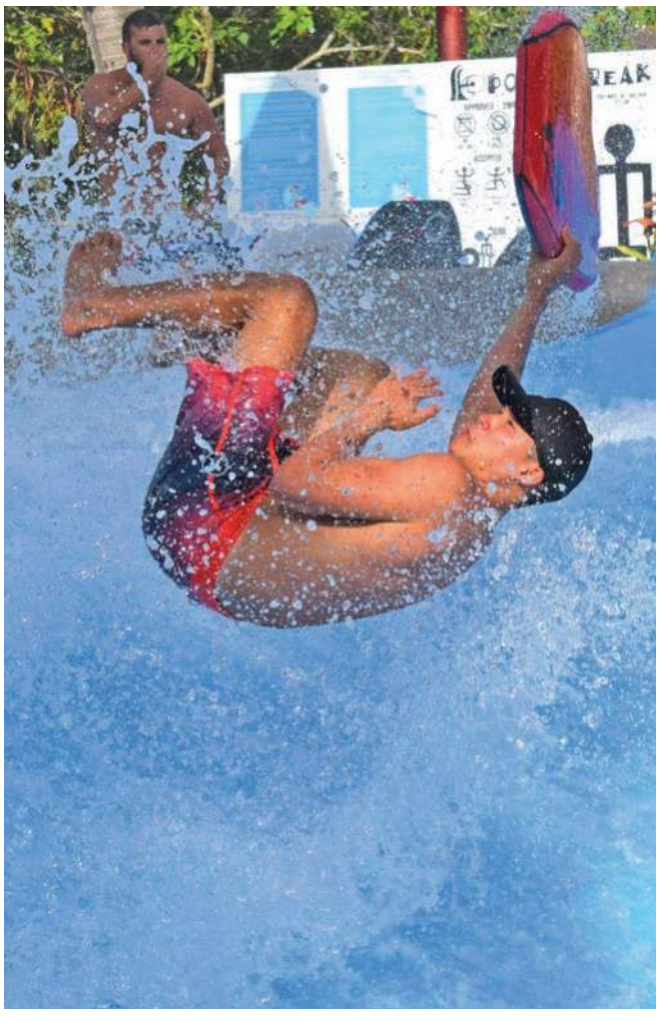
11th Annual International Point Break Open

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

A participant competes in last Saturday's 11th Annual International Point Break Open held at the Pacific Island Club-Saipan's flowrider facility in San Antonio.

Cody Shipman leaps forward in one of his routines in the men's intermediate bodyboard event.

Cody Shipman maneuvers his bodyboard.



Thomas Reyes propels midair.

Bo Young Jun sets up one of her tricks.

Duckhwa Lee tries to maintain her balance.

Bo Young Jun steers her bodyboard.

Thomas Reyes prepares to perform one of his stunts.

Judge breaks McGwire's HR rookie record

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

NBA players express frustration with Trump's words

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Torres: Better facilities for '21 Mini Games

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is looking to put more funding into Saipan's sports facilities, especially now that the CNMI is busy preparing for its hosting of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

Torres said he would continue to discuss the funding issue with some administration officials and the CNMI's sports leaders that include the Northern Marianas Sports Association, which now oversees the maintenance and operations of the Oleai Sports Complex.

"We have a new track, which was better from the old one. We do have the infrastructure, but I would like to see better facilities here. I'm going to look at other priorities as we prepare to host the [Mini] Games in 2021," said Torres.

The resurfacing of the track oval of the Oleai Sports Complex was just completed early this year with the funds for the project coming from the Community Development Block Grant from the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. The Oleai track hosted the Micronesian Athletics Championship in

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JON PEREZ
The Oleai track oval's new rubber surface is waiting for the International Association of Athletics Federations certification after the project was completed early this year. The track is among the sports facilities that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres wants to improve as Saipan prepares to host the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

'Bright future ahead for CNMI football'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Asian Football Confederation development consultant Domeka Garamendi sees a bright future awaiting CNMI football.

Garamendi, who was on Saipan this week for a three-day visit , made the forecast after going through Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's strategic plan for 2018 to 2023.

"I am here to help NMIFA review, refine, and finalize its strategic plan and see how AFC could help in realizing these goals. The plan leans heavily on development since the FA is just new. Definitely, the programs are workable so

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Asian Football Confederation development consultant Domeka Garamendi is flanked by Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan, left, and general secretary Ross Zapanta during a visit at the NMIFA office in Garapan yesterday.

Woo wins two women's titles

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Go Eun Woo emerged triumphant in two events in the women's division of the 11th Annual International Point Break Open held last Saturday at the flowrider facility of the Pacific Islands Club-Saipan in San Antonio.

Woo ruled the women's pro and open bodyboard events in contrasting fashion to become the best competitor in the annual tournament that attracted amateur and veteran bodyboarders. She won in another close contest in the pro bodyboard category that had the competitors separated by less than two points. Woo tallied 46 points to edge Jaya Yun, who ended up with 45 markers, while Bo Young Jun scored 43.5 points to finish third.

The Korean then added the open bodyboard title to her achievements after beating closest

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JON PEREZ
Bo Young Jun steers her bodyboard against the waves of the flowrider facility during last Saturday's 11th Annual International Point Break Open at the Pacific Islands Club-Saipan in San Antonio.